



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-127
Monday
3 July 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-127

CONTENTS

3 July 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Gap With Israelis Still 'Wide' [MENA]	1
'Arafat, Cabinet View Redeployment, Elections, Prisoners [Jericho VOP]	1
'Arafat Asks Cabinet To Remain in Permanent Session [Jericho VOP]	1
'Arafat Says 3 Presidents Targeted in Addis Ababa [MENA]	2
'Abbas Views Israeli Withdrawal, PA 'Practices' [London MBC TV]	2
'Disturbances' Protest Failure of IDF Withdrawal [Jerusalem TV]	2
Al-Husayni on 'Differences' Between Israel, PA [Jerusalem Radio]	3

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Fail To Reach Agreement; No Statement [Jerusalem Radio]	3
'Urayqat: Agreement Content More Important Than Date [Jericho VOP]	4
'Clear,' 'Specific' Agreement Urged [Jericho VOP]	4
Hamas Spokesman Comments [Tehran Radio]	5
Palestinian Source: Problems Remain [AFP]	6
Officials View Talks [Jerusalem Radio]	7
Sha'th on Failure of Talks on Prisoners' Release [London MBC TV]	7
Palestinian Negotiator: 'Nothing' Achieved in Cairo [MENA]	8
Says Israel 'Not Serious' [MENA]	8
Shahaq: Gaps With Syria Remain 'Very Wide' [Jerusalem Radio]	8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Government-FIS Talks Approach 'Successful' End [Paris International]	10
Accord Reached With UGTA; Strike Canceled [Algiers Radio]	10
Zeroual Returns From Visit to Egypt, UAE [Algiers TV]	11
Security Forces Kill 38 Terrorists in Recent Days [Algiers Radio]	11

Egypt

Cairo Denies Sudanese Statement on New Clash [London MBC TV]	11
Al-Baz on Developments With Sudan, Terrorism [Cairo TV]	11
Foreign Minister Musa on Relations With Sudan	14
Sudan Must Prove Noninvolvement [MENA]	14
Sudan Must Declare 'No Connection' [London MBC TV]	14

Officials React to al-Turabi's Remarks on Nile Water	15
Musa Warns al-Turabi <i>[MENA]</i>	15
Water Minister's Reaction <i>[MENA]</i>	15
Further on Water Minister's Warning <i>[Cairo Radio]</i>	15
Information Minister Warns Sudan <i>[MENA]</i>	16
Mubarak Warns Sudan <i>[MENA]</i>	16
SDUG Claims al-Turabi Involvement in Attack <i>[Cairo Radio]</i>	16
Sudanese Officer Affirms Sudan Organized Plot <i>[MENA]</i>	17
Commentary Warns Sudan Regime Against Provocation <i>[Cairo Radio]</i>	17

Libya

Editor Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Remarks <i>[JANA]</i>	18
General People's Congress Opens Session <i>[Tripoli Radio]</i>	19

Sudan

Al-Bashir Chairs Emergency Cabinet Meeting <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	19
Al-Bashir on Eritrean, Egyptian, UK 'Enmity' <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	20
Al-Bashir on Egyptian, Eritrean Plots <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	20
Al-Turabi Threatens To Revoke Water Accords With Egypt <i>[Beirut Radio]</i>	21
Minister Denies Involvement in Anti-Mubarak Attack <i>[AL-RA'Y 30 Jun]</i>	21
Radio: Embassy Statement Denies Assassination Link <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	21
'Uthman Warns of 'Dire Consequences' of Threats <i>[London MBC TV]</i>	22
General Reports Egyptian Troop Movements in Hala'ib <i>[AFP]</i>	22
Officer: Armed Forces in Hala'ib Ready To Respond <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	22
Ministry Lists Police Deaths in Egyptian 'Hostility' <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	22
State Minister Atabani on Current Circumstances	23
Calls Egypt Threat to Country <i>[SUNA]</i>	23
Discusses Tension With Egypt <i>[AL-SAFIR 30 Jun]</i>	23
Claims Egyptian Attacks in Hala'ib <i>[Voice of the Oppressed]</i>	25
Briefs Foreign Envoys on Egyptian Ties <i>[National Unity Radio]</i>	25
Official: Egypt Seeks To Use Force, Not Dialogue <i>[AL-RA'Y 2 Jul]</i>	25
Khartoum Complains to UN Over Egyptian 'Aggression' <i>[AFP]</i>	25
Further on Protest to UN <i>[Omdurman Radio]</i>	26

ARAB PENINSULA

United Arab Emirates

Police Deny Reports of Car Bomb Near Church <i>[WAKH]</i>	27
Further on Reported Car Explosion <i>[MENA]</i>	27

Yemen

Security Forces Foil Plane Hijacking at Sanaa Airport <i>[Sanaa Radio]</i>	27
Source Denies Mubarak Assailant Carried Yemeni Passport <i>[MENA]</i>	27

IRAQ

UN Experts Arrive in Baghdad on Germ Warfare Mission [AFP]	28
Tariq 'Aziz Meets Rolf Ekeus [INA]	28
Oil Minister Holds Talks With Ekeus [INA]	28
AFP Details 'Fresh Talks'	28
Ekeus Given 'New Details' [AFP]	28
'Positive' Talks Conclude, Ekeus Departs [INA]	29
IAEA Spokesman Cited on Iraq's Nuclear Material [Voice of Iraqi People]	29
Paper Accuses Ekeus of 'Carrying Out CIA Orders' [AL-THAWRAH 26 Jun]	29
Foreign Minister Says Qatari Change 'Domestic Affair' [INA]	30
Intelligence Chief Said Visiting Sudan for Coordination [Voice of Iraqi People]	30
Egypt's 'Tendentious Campaign' Against Sudan Viewed [Baghdad Radio]	31
Mubarak Urged To Stop 'Escalation' Against Sudan [INA]	31
AL-'IRAQ Reports Mubarak Assassination Attempt [27 Jun]	32
AL-JUMHURIYAH Reports Attack [27 Jun]	33
Iran Urged To Back Goodwill Statements With 'Actions' [INA]	33
'Amir Muhammad Rashid Appointed Oil Minister [INA]	34
Officials, Citizens Arrested; Officers Pensioned Off [Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]	34
300 Officers, Tribal Elders Reportedly Executed [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	34
Further on Execution [IRNA]	34
Opposition Radio: Police Post in Baghdad Attacked [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	34
Opposition Claims Five Killed in al-Ramadi [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	35
Opposition Reports Shelling in Chamchamal Region [IRNA]	35

ISRAEL

Foreign Minister on 'Failed' Talks With Palestinians [Tel Aviv Radio]	36
Details Disagreements [Jerusalem TV]	37
Interviewed on Security Issues [Jerusalem Radio]	38
Rabin Says Redeployment Could Take 10 Months [Jerusalem Radio]	39
Views Terror, Gaza, Syria, Jerusalem [Jerusalem Radio]	39
Cabinet Briefed on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks [Jerusalem Radio]	40
Rabin, Peres at Odds Over Washington Ceremony [MA'ARIV 2 Jul]	40
Decision To Release Palestinian Prisoners Detailed [Jerusalem TV]	40
PLO Given Two Weeks To Request Orient House Rezoning [THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Jun]	41
Over 400 Security Prisoners End Hunger Strike [Jerusalem TV]	41
Reportage on Washington Peace Talks With Syria	41
Syria Proposes 10:6 Demilitarization Ratio [HA'ARETZ 3 Jul]	41
U.S. Compromise Being Considered [HA'ARETZ 2 Jul]	42
'Sources' Fear al-Asad Reaction [MA'ARIV 2 Jul]	43
Shahaq on 'Dialogue' With Syrians [Tel Aviv Radio]	43
2d Document Leaked; Problems in Talks Noted [Jerusalem TV]	44
Further on 2d Leaked Document [Jerusalem TV]	44
Peres Comments on 2d Army Document [Tel Aviv Radio]	45
Rabinovich on Shahaq-al-Shihabi Meeting [DAVAR 30 Jun]	46
IDF Views Understandings Paper [HA'ARETZ 30 Jun]	48
Poll Shows Rabin's Popularity Rising [Jerusalem TV]	50

LEBANON

Official Denies Participation in Geneva Multilaterals [Beirut Radio]	51
Al-Hariri, Birri Deny Report on Talks [Beirut Radio]	51
Al-Hariri Meets Syrian Officials in Damascus [Beirut Radio]	51
UN Official Comments on Fate of Kidnapped Journalist [Beirut Radio]	51
Former Speaker's Son Escapes Assassination Bid [Voice of the South]	51
Hizballah Official Dies in Car Explosion in South [Voice of the South]	51
Two Israeli Soldiers Killed in Tank Explosion [Beirut Radio]	51
Islamic Resistance: Israeli Infiltration Bid Foiled [Voice of the Oppressed]	51
SLA, 'Terrorists' Exchange Gunfire; No Casualties [Voice of the South]	52
Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties in Attacks [Voice of the Oppressed]	52
Shelling Kills Resistance Fighter, Wounds Citizen [Beirut Radio]	52
Explosive Device Wounds SLA Member [Voice of the South]	52
Lahd Says SLA Does Not Shell Lebanese Villages [Voice of the South]	52
Hizballah Clashes With Israeli Army; Deaths Cited [Voice of Lebanon]	53
Rabin Remarks on Clash Based on 'Mistaken Information' [Voice of the South]	53
Hizballah Chief Views SLA, 'Zionist' Relations [Voice of the Oppressed]	53
Forest Fires Sweep North; Syrian Aid Requested [Radio Lebanon]	54

SYRIA

Al-Shar': 'No Apparent Progress' in Talks With Israel [AFP]	55
Discusses Peace Over Phone With Clinton [Damascus Radio]	55
Commentary: 'Total' Withdrawal 'Vital' to Peace [Damascus Radio]	55
Paper: Military Talks Subject to 'In-Depth' Appraisal [Damascus Radio]	56
Commentary Demands Israel Move From 'Rhetoric' to 'Action' [Damascus Radio]	56
Press Views Israeli Statements on Military Talks [Damascus Radio]	57
Commentary Urges Israel To Stop 'Wasting' Time [Damascus Radio]	58

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban: No Decision on Alliance With Dostam [IRNA]	60
Dostam Aircraft Bombard Kabul Residential Areas [Kabul Radio]	60
Rabbani Asks Pasha'i Heads for Support [Kabul Radio]	60
Rabbani Decree Approves Budget for 1995 [Kabul Radio]	60
EU Pledges To Extend Economic Assistance [Kabul Radio]	61

Bangladesh

President Receives Iranian Visitor; Talks Held [Dhaka Radio]	61
--	----

India

BJP Welcomes U.S. Congress Rejection of Bill [Delhi Radio]	61
Envoy to U.S. 'Grateful' [Delhi Radio]	61
Janata Dal Figure Criticizes CNN Agreement [Delhi Radio]	62
Editorial Views Wisner's Remarks on Kashmir [NAVABHARAT TIMES 29 Jun]	62
Editorial Views Cost of U.S. 'Obsession With Iran' [THE TIMES OF INDIA 26 Jun]	62
Japan Pledges \$1.4 Billion in Assistance [Delhi Radio]	63
Indo-British Group To Build New Bombay Airport [THE ECONOMIC TIMES 22 Jun]	63
Deficit Recorded in Border Trade With Burma [BUSINESS LINE 27 Jun]	64

Iran

Victory-6 Naval Maneuvers Begin in Persian Gulf [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	65
Minister Calls U.S. 'International Terrorist' [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	65
Commentary on U.S. Halting Nuclear Cooperation [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	65
Commentary Views Purpose of Gore's Trip to Moscow [<i>Tehran International</i>]	66
Commentary Blames U.S. for Egypt-Sudan Tension [<i>Tehran International</i>]	66
Sudanese-Egyptian Relations Viewed After Attack [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	67
Confirmation on Mahdavi-Khani's Resignation [<i>IRNA</i>]	67
Israeli Motives Behind Compromise Process Viewed [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	67
'Constructive' Caspian Sea Meeting Ends [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	68
Emami-Kashani Gives Both Friday Prayers Sermons [<i>Tehran Radio</i>]	68

Nepal

RRP Protests Against Dissolution of Parliament [<i>AFP</i>]	69
---	----

Sri Lanka

Army Suffers Major Casualties in Battle With LTTE [<i>AFP</i>]	69
Spokesman Reports on Attack [<i>Colombo International</i>]	70
Army Consolidates Control [<i>Colombo International</i>]	70

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Gap With Israelis Still 'Wide'

NC0107205095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2000 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his happiness at President Mubarak's escape from the sinful assassination attempt in Addis Ababa.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, 'Arafat said that the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli views and that this gap is blocking an agreement between the two sides. 'Arafat added that he is still waiting for Israel's official response to the written proposals presented to it regarding the interim agreement, noting that there is still hope that this gap could be narrowed.

'Arafat pointed out that the negotiations on Jerusalem are supposed to start as soon as possible and not later than the beginning of the third year of the Oslo agreement. He noted that Jerusalem will be raised as a basic issue as of 4 May 1996. He stressed that the Palestinian Authority is fully prepared to hold elections, noting that a permanent European committee has trained 6,000 Palestinian teachers on the requirements of the elections. In addition, the European Union has donated the vehicles and technical equipment needed for the process.

On the prospects for an internal confrontation with the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the weakness this could cause the Palestinian people's balance of power with Israel, 'Arafat emphasized that the Palestinian people's awareness has enabled it to face all challenges and that the experiment of Afghanistan or Lebanon will not be repeated in Palestine. 'Arafat pointed out that so long as there is a Palestinian Authority, it assumes responsibility wherever it exists. He noted that under political pluralism, everybody must respect authority.

'Arafat hoped that the Israelis would honor their promises made not only to the Palestinians, but the entire world.

'Arafat, Cabinet View Redeployment, Elections, Prisoners

JN0107134895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Dispatch by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority held its weekly meeting chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidency headquarters in Gaza today.

The Council of Ministers discussed the negotiations, especially those related to redeployment, holding the next legislative elections, and the transfer of powers to the National Authority in the West Bank. The Council of Ministers also discussed the subject of releasing the Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli occupation jails.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that the efforts will continue for the release of all prisoners without discrimination. He spoke about the meeting of the negotiations committee assigned with discussing the subject of prisoners yesterday. Dr. Sha'th told the council that the prisoners may be released in an operation that will be completed before holding the elections.

As for the meeting between President 'Arafat and [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres this evening, Dr. Sha'th said: We are going to review all steps of agreement, especially redeployment, holding of elections, and the prisoners. He added: Based on this, we will work out an intensive plan to complete what has not been completed yet.

He stressed that the question is all the cities and villages of the West Bank and the timetable that resolves all issues related to the transitional stage.

On his part, Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah said there are still a host of pending issues, especially concerning redeployment. He stressed that Israel should abide by its commitments and stop procrastination in order to advance the peace process.

Minister of Culture Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the National Authority's responsibility should be on all population centers in the West Bank.

'Arafat Asks Cabinet To Remain in Permanent Session

JN0107183395 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1730 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza today under the chairmanship of President 'Arafat.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidential Office, stated that the Council of Ministers discussed details of the ongoing negotiations with Israel on the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank, the legislative elections, and the transfer of civilian powers to the National Authority. He added that there were still differences between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the redeployment, the security

arrangements, and the stages of the redeployment in residential areas before and after the elections. The council also discussed Palestinian ideas to be presented during President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Erez crossing after one hour.

The secretary general of the Presidential Office added: President 'Arafat urged Israel to be more serious in order to reach an agreement on the transitional stage and to implement its commitments in this regard. The council reviewed developments in negotiations on Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees in the jails of the Israeli occupation. He said that the council stressed its full rejection of Israel's refusal to release the prisoners, who are accused of killing Israelis, and said that peace is usually reached by fighters. The council also listened to a full explanation from President Yasir 'Arafat of the meetings of the OAU summit conference in Addis Ababa last week. Palestine attended it as an observer member of the African organization.

'Abd-al-Rahim asserted that President 'Arafat asked the Council of Ministers to be in permanent session to discuss the latest developments in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in light of this evening's meeting, particularly since the negotiations are moving quickly.

The council then discussed several issues listed on its agenda, particularly those pertaining to the improvement of performance, working out suitable budgets for ministries and the different departments, and ways to improve tax collection and to support Palestinian national institutions in Occupied Jerusalem.

'Arafat Says 3 Presidents Targeted in Addis Ababa
NC0107145995 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1445 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 1 Jul (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat told the Palestinian Authority's Council of Ministers in its meeting today that he received official information that treacherous assault attempts had been planned against three Arab presidents in Addis Ababa. He added that he personally was among the three targeted.

In its meeting today, the Palestinian Authority's Council of Ministers condemned the sinful attack against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

'Abbas Views Israeli Withdrawal, PA 'Practices'
NC0207202895 *London MBC Television in Arabic*
1800 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, architect of the self-rule agreement, has said that

the reason for the delay in the deployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank is primarily a security one. This came in an interview with our correspondent in Tunisia, Mufidah Hasshani.

[Begin recording] When Israel demands that withdrawal or redeployment be partial or that the Israeli forces withdraw completely but then return to the territories, then this contradicts the Declaration of Principles. I believe that the reason for this is Israeli's extreme sensitivity on the issue of security. They want the Palestinian Authority [PA] to do more than it can. They want it to prevent any action against Israel and this is impossible. [end recording]

In reply to a question on the dialogue between the PLO and the Palestinian opposition, specifically Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, Abu-Mazin said:

[Begin recording] Points of agreement or a common background for an understanding have started to take shape. This background stems from the premise that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have a right to democratic opposition in the way they want. But authority remains with the PA. [end recording]

On the PA's performance, Abu-Mazin said:

[Begin recording] The dispute is over the practices. In my view, some wrong practices must end. This does not mean that I am in the opposition ranks because it is impossible for me to be in opposition. I want things to be better, I want the best. We could have achieved much more than we did this year. The PA has become a fact. [end recording]

'Disturbances' Protest Failure of IDF Withdrawal
TA0107180295 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1*
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Video report by Linda Scherzer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Disturbances continued throughout the West Bank today in solidarity with the security prisoners' hunger strike and to mark 1 July, the date when the Israeli-PLO agreement was due to have been signed. Our correspondent Linda Scherzer reports:

[Begin Scherzer recording] Nabulus — one of the four cities where the first stage of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the West Bank is planned — marked 1 July with demonstrations. With no sign of the implementation of the first stage of the IDF's withdrawal, hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets in Nabulus, Ramallah, and Janin. At least 50 people were arrested. On the Palestinian street, nobody was

surprised that the sides did not reach an agreement on time. [passage omitted]

In Hebron, life slowly returned to normal after two days of curfew. But following a day of rioting, the soldiers were forced to close the town again today.

In Tall-al-Rumaythah in Hebron a 16-year-old youth stabbed a soldier, lightly wounding him. The youth was shot on the spot and seriously wounded. The youth, who comes from a wealthy Palestinian family, arrived from Jordan with his father three days ago. He died in hospital several hours later. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on 'Differences' Between Israel, PA
TA0207075295 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0700 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni said that the differences between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Israel were mainly over the security arrangements in the areas vacated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Al-Husayni said that Israel insisted on its right to enter these areas any time it desired even after the Army's redeployment, whereas the Palestinians were prepared to permit the entry of Israeli military forces only in the context of hot pursuit after terrorists.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Fail To Reach Agreement; No Statement

TA0207052295 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0405 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Telephone talk between moderator Yoram Ronen in the studio and correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem at the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ronen] We now move over to the Erez checkpoint for a report on the lengthy nocturnal meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which concluded without an agreement or a joint statement. Good morning to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem at the Erez checkpoint.

[Ben-Menahem] Good morning. There is no agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA], and both parties did not even issue a joint statement after a long night at the offices of the coordination and liaison offices at the Erez checkpoint. Several minutes ago, a senior Palestinian source told me that the main problem was the roads leading to the Israeli settlements. The Palestinians demanded to share joint control with Israel over these roads, while Israel insisted on maintaining exclusive responsibility over these roads due to security considerations. The meeting between 'Arafat and Peres

started at 2130 [1830 GMT] last night. The two men first held a private meeting which was later expanded to include Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. The meeting was also joined by Major General 'Uzi Dayan and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya from the Palestinian side. These two military officials head the committees dealing with the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria. Throughout the night, documents and various formulations of the joint statement were exchanged between the sides. Shim'on Peres consulted with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over the telephone, and the talks were also interrupted in order to permit the parties to hold consultations. Dr. Nabil Sha'ith and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh occasionally stepped out to speak to the waiting correspondents and said that the talks were continuing on and off [last three words in English]. Eventually, at exactly 0600 [0300 GMT], 'Arafat and Peres stepped out to the correspondents with tired and disappointed faces and said that they had failed to reach an agreement or to agree on a joint statement. Here are some remarks by both of them.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We did not reach an agreement this morning. There is no point in noting any specific points or whether we are closer or further away from an agreement. Either you have a full agreement or you do not.

[Ben-Menahem] When will you meet again.

[Peres] We will speak over the phone and set the dates. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Ben-Menahem] Yasir 'Arafat told me in Arabic that the discussions were very thorough and detailed and perhaps could not be fully concluded due to a lack of time. I asked 'Arafat what the main points of contention were? The PLO Chairman replied that agreement was not reached on all the details of the interim accord. Was the problem of responsibility over the rural areas in Judaea and Samaria resolved? 'Arafat replied that there was disagreement on all the points. We later spoke with Faysal al-Husayni who arrived to participate in the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] These are difficult negotiations, not simple. But I think that each side now understands what the other side wants and is aware of each parties' respective red lines.

[Ben-Menahem] Are you now more optimistic than yesterday?

[Al-Husayni] Neither more nor less. People say that I am always optimistic.

[Ben-Menahem] But 1 July has passed, and there is still no agreement.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, today is 2 July so maybe there will be no agreement today but perhaps later.

[Ben-Menahem] And is that okay for the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] Look, I think that everyone is doing their best, and I think it will do no harm to give ourselves another 48 or 24 hours. [end recording]

[Ben-Menahem] Al-Husayni also told us that he was continuing his hunger strike until the issue of the prisoners' release was resolved. He said that the security prisoners in several prisons had decided to give the Israeli Government an extension period in order to discuss their fate and had therefore started eating eggs and drinking milk, thus temporarily ceasing their hunger strike. A senior source in the Palestinian delegation told me that in his assessment, 'Arafat and Peres would meet again within a few days in order to reach agreement on a joint statement announcing an extension period of several weeks in order to wrap up the negotiations on the interim accord.

'Urayqat: Agreement Content More Important Than Date

JN0207063395 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0412 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Local Government minister in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Yusuf al-Qazzaz from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Qazzaz] Dr. Sa'ib, good morning.

['Urayqat] Good morning to you.

[Al-Qazzaz] The meeting [between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres] ended one hour ago. You were among those attending. What took place at this meeting?

['Urayqat] All issues and all points of the interim agreement were discussed. We have already told our people that there are obstacles and a big gap that prevents us from reaching agreement on the concepts of redeployment and on issues such as the release of the detainees. We would like to reemphasize that what is important to us is the content of the agreement and not the date it is signed. Frankly speaking, we want explicit terms of reference for the redeployment operations, whether in the first or second stage. We do not wish to leave any unsolved issues for the future. We want to pave the way toward the final status negotiations which

are expected to start less than 11 months from now, in May 1996.

That's why we say that we do not want to leave unsolved issues because such issues will later constitute obstacles that might obstruct reaching agreement on the final status in May 1996.

As we said, the content is based on an Israeli redeployment outside populated areas. We say all populated areas and not specific ones. The Israeli army must leave villages, camps, and cities. This is what redeployment means. We also say that we do not want to fragment our lands and we want the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be one geographical unit. We do not want to have any military roadblock at the entrance of any of our villages, cities, and camps in the West Bank. The experience has been painful in Jericho and painful in the other areas. We do not wish to go through such an experience again. As I said, I believe that what is important now is the content of the agreement and not the date it is signed. Therefore, the negotiations will continue in an intensive manner. We hope that the provisions of the Declaration of Principles will be respected. We hope that the Israeli Government will adopt several political decisions on the redeployment and on the release of all the detainees from the Israeli jails.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, then we cannot say that there is either success or failure?

['Urayqat] No. If we take into consideration that there is the 1 July deadline for signing the agreement, then reaching an agreement was not possible. This is a failure. There was deadline and this deadline should have been respected. But, as I have said, the negotiations began to be carried out in an intensive manner only over the past three or four weeks. Had we started intensive negotiations like this five months ago, we would have reached an agreement. In any case, the success and failure of the negotiations for our Palestinian people depend on the contents of this agreement and not on anything else.

'Clear,' 'Specific' Agreement Urged

JN0207060895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0500 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, led by President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, were concluded at dawn today. All sticky issues preventing the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, particularly the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces, transfer of power, elections, security issues, and release of Palestinian prisoners, were discussed during the meeting.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, said: What is important to us, the people of Palestine, is the substance of the agreement and not the speed with which it is signed. He added that Israel has not abided by the set date to sign the agreement. He said the agreement should be clear and specific and provide for the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army outside all the populated Palestinian areas, the elimination of military roadblocks, and non-division of territories. He stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will be resumed soon in an intensive manner so that an agreement can be reached on all pending issues.

Trade and Economy Minister Ahmad Quray's, known as Abu-'Ala', said:

[Begin recording] [Quray'] In fact, and as is well known, this is an interim transitional agreement. It is an agreement on the entire transitional period. Talks during this session, which continued throughout the night, dealt with the subject of redeployment and security arrangements in the territories. It was agreed to resume talks after 24 hours.

[Yusuf al-Qazzaz] Is it possible to make progress within the next few days?

[Quray'] We hope so. However, we were split over a position which I can term as difficult, especially regarding security arrangements. We hope that within these 24 hours there will be contacts or positions that can soften things.

[Al-Qazzaz] Other officials joined the Israeli delegation after the start of talks last night.

[Quray'] In fact, the Israeli delegation which came was the delegation which completed the negotiations. They are known. They are Uri Savir, 'Uzi Dayan, Yo'el Singer, and Shahor.

[Al-Qazzaz] This means a myriad of subjects was debated.

[Quray'] Undoubtedly. As I have said, it is the transitional agreement with all its components. However, a breakthrough was expected to take place tonight. Progress was expected to be made in the concepts so that we can move on to the final formulas of these concepts.

[Al-Qazzaz] We thank brother Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', minister of trade and economy in the National Authority, who attended President Yasir 'Arafat's talks with Shim'on Peres, which continued until the early hours of this morning. Good morning, brother Abu-'Ala'.

[Quray'] You are welcome. Good morning. [end recording]

Hamas Spokesman Comments

NC0207202395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1745 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, by the supervisor of the political program at Tehran Radio from the "News and Reports" program; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Peres-'Arafat negotiations at the Erez crossing have failed despite pledges earlier that 1 July would be the last date for expanding self-rule. What, in your opinion, are the reasons for this failure?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Undoubtedly, the failure, in our view, is merely temporary or superficial, in the sense that the two sides will have to find an agreement at the next opportunity. As regards the Palestinian Authority [PA], when it placed all its bets on the Oslo agreement, it bet on this one and only path. What confirms that the two sides must undoubtedly reach an agreement is the announcement made about arranging a date on the 17th of this month in Washington to sign what the two sides agree on.

[Correspondent] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has warned that it will use all methods to release the Palestinian detained prisoners, including breaking down the prisons. Do you believe this is possible?

[Ghawshah] Actually, Hamas issued a statement after the PA was diverted from all standards and limits that are acceptable to any person. It tortured the detainees in the PA's prisons, persecuted them, shaved their heads, and plucked their beards, particularly Dr. al-Zahhar, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, and Shaykh Salamah Safadi. This was implemented through the so-called Musa 'Arafat, director of Military Intelligence, upon direct instructions from the chairman of the PA. This ugly step, which provokes all Muslims, made the movement promise itself that it would do its utmost to teach those who committed the crimes the necessary lessons until it stops them once and for all.

[Correspondent] There are some reports about the deteriorating health of the Palestinian detainees. What information do you have on this?

[Ghawshah] With regard to the topic of the Palestinian detainees who have been on a hunger strike for over two weeks — and there are many thousands of them, some of whom have started to refuse water too —

their health is getting worse and worse. Also, there is a semi-conspiracy to try to release some of them and keep the majority in prison, within a program the PA and Zionist occupation authorities agree on. This program consists of keeping all mujahidin who oppose the Oslo agreement in prison. Now, the fact is that if any agreement is signed, be it initial or final, with the PA without releasing all the detainees, terrible repercussions will be awaiting the detainees and the Palestinian arena.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, some Palestinian factions, particularly the Fatah faction, have issued a statement in Tunis on the liberation of the detainees. How do you evaluate this stance?

[Ghawshah] What is the content of the statement for me to be able to comment on it?

[Correspondent] Some Palestinian factions in Tunis, in particular Fatah, the largest Palestinian faction, have demanded the release of the Palestinian detainees.

[Ghawshah] There are some differences between what the Fatah Central Committee proposes from Tunis represented by Faruq Qaddumi and some members of the Fatah Central Committee, and what the PA proposes in the way of media and political proposals. There is some kind of difference, no doubt. However, the fact is that this proposal adopted by Fatah in Tunis does not elicit the necessary response and effect inside the occupied territories. In other words, the political and media proposals do not commit the Fatah cadres and bases. We, in Hamas, hope that this hardline current will increase in the direction of the Palestinian people's principles even more than before.

[Correspondent] How is the health of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin now?

[Ghawshah] There are reports from Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's prison that his health deteriorated recently, although we know that he took part in the hunger strike. There are reports that he has been taken to hospital. Most of this information comes via the lawyer Mr. Dahamshah. However, all the information confirms that he is experiencing difficult health conditions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ghawshah, could you please put the Arab listener of our radio station in the picture on the internal situation in occupied Palestine?

[Ghawshah] The internal situation in occupied Palestine is tragic, in both the autonomy areas where the articles of the Oslo and Cairo agreements are being applied, because they have a Zionist reference point and lead to problems in work, spreading unemployment, increasing inflation, causing cliques, and imposing the hegemony of some individuals on the group, and also in the areas

occupied in 1967, that is, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the latter, the Zionist occupation is heightening its suppression of the Palestinian people and tracking down the mujahidin. Three days ago, everyone heard about the Nazi-Fascist methods the Zionist occupation used when confronted by the struggler Tahir Qafishah who was martyred when confronting scores of occupation soldiers. He was shelled with missiles and three houses were razed to the ground using bulldozers. These methods are harsher than the Nazis used to use in Europe. But, unfortunately, because the media is under Zionist control, nobody is talking about these practices. Add to that the practices of the occupation authorities against our people who are taking action every day in solidarity with the detainees. The occupation forces fire at them, causing many casualties and they detain many youths.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Thank you.

[Ghawshah] Thank you.

Palestinian Source: Problems Remain

NC0107090695 Paris AFP in English
0751 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 1 (AFP) — Israeli and PLO negotiators have been unable to strike a deal to extend autonomy across the West Bank in time for the midnight Saturday [1 July] deadline, Palestinian sources said.

That left PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign minister Shim'on Peres to try to seek a compromise when they meet late Saturday at the Erez border crossing into the Gaza Strip.

"We don't have a deal yet," 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani told AFP.

Israeli officials had voiced hope that a framework of understanding would be agreed for 'Arafat and Peres to announce, leaving the details to be ironed out at follow-up negotiations.

But Kanafani said: "There is nothing scheduled to issue a common statement or make an agreement.

"The meeting will discuss the best way to speed up the negotiations."

Both sides set a target date of Saturday, July 1 for an accord on the second phase of autonomy — redeployment outside Palestinian towns on the West Bank, a transfer of civil powers and elections.

The Palestinians have demanded a clear timetable for army evacuation of West Bank towns while Israel has offered to pull out of only four — Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah and Tulkarm in a first state.

Israeli foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir and Palestinian economy "minister" Ahmad Quray' held intensive negotiations at secret locations most of the week to try to hammer out a deal.

But a Palestinian source told AFP: "There are still problems and they have failed to agree. It could take another week.

"The Israeli want to isolate the northern towns around Janin, we want a full timetable for withdrawal from all towns."

Demands for an early release of all the estimated 6,500 Palestinian prisoners had also proved a sticking point, the source said. [passage omitted]

Officials View Talks

TA0207061895 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, the official in charge of the Israel desk in the Palestinian Authority, said that he had no doubt that an agreement between the Palestinians and Israel would ultimately be reached despite the fact that the gaps remained wide. Abu-Zayidah asserted that Israel did not trust the Palestinians and was unprepared to grant them powers in the security sphere. Abu-Zayidah was speaking to Qol Yisra'el.

Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin told Qol Yisra'el that he hoped that the second stage of the Oslo agreement would not be implemented and that Kfar Saba would not become a border settlement that had to be defended.

Sha'th on Failure of Talks on Prisoners' Release

NC3006192495 *London MBC Television in Arabic*
1800 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Antoine 'Awn in London — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awn] Dr. Sha'th: Why did you fail in today's meeting [with the Israelis] to agree on the release of prisoners?

[Sha'th] We presented our demands and what they offered did not meet our demands. Accordingly, they decided to go back to their Cabinet on Sunday [2 July]. We want a timetable for the release of all prisoners and we want it to start immediately and to end before the

election date, so that those held in Israel's prisons might take part in the election and in the peace process.

['Awn] After the meeting you spoke about forgiveness and turning a new page, while Israel holds all the keys in its hands and your people are doubtful that the self-rule will achieve stability. Do you not agree that emotions alone do not restore rights?

[Sha'th] We have not regained our rights with emotions, but with a long struggle over 47 years. The Israelis stand to gain now because they realize that without us there can be no peace or stability. Negotiations proceed according to ideas, not just emotions. We have reached the point where it is no longer possible to delay the release of these prisoners. For us, they are freedom's heroes, but they are still held in Israeli jails. We are now in the process of implementing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, which states that the remaining prisoners are to be released before the interim agreement, that is, upon the redeployment of the Israeli troops outside the Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank, which means now. Their release must not be delayed.

['Awn] The self-rule authority has been in existence for a year. The Palestinian internal situation is in turmoil, Israel has not honored most of its promises, and the Jerusalem and refugees issues are on hold. Do you not think this requires readjustment within the authority?

[Sha'th] This is a difficult task. We never said it was an easy one. We struggled for 45 or 47 years without negotiations, and could not liberate our land. We fought the Israelis and the Israelis fought us. The Israelis realize that without peace with us neither our interests nor theirs will be attained. That is why we are negotiating, and negotiations are a difficult process; they are not easy. Not all Israel is inclining toward peace, although it has an interest in peace. We are constantly reassessing things, what needs to be done, changed, and developed. We are committed to the peace process and believe that one year is not enough to judge that it is no longer feasible. We do not want another Afghanistan, Chechnya, or Bosnia. We want an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, and we want to achieve this through the peace process, which entails a long and bitter struggle. We realize that and believe it is possible.

['Awn] But the Israelis want something completely different, do they not?

[Sha'th] No, they do not want something different, because they are still in the negotiations, which are difficult. Had we accepted what they offered us, we would have signed the agreement tomorrow. But we did not; we will continue to negotiate to obtain real

implementation of the agreement through withdrawal from all the Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank. We are not giving in to them. And they have not abandoned the peace process. This is the nature of negotiations. We know that.

[Awn] Thank you, Dr. Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Palestinian Negotiator: 'Nothing' Achieved in Cairo
NC2906213195 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2015 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority, and his delegation left Cairo this afternoon following two days of negotiations with the Israelis.

Upon departure, he said nothing was achieved in this round of talks. He said the head of the Israeli delegation announced that the Israeli Government did not authorize him to discuss anything related to the territory issue because it will be addressed in the talks on the redeployment of Israeli forces. So, we had nothing to discuss, al-Tarifi said.

It was clear that the Israeli delegation was not interested in reaching any agreement before 1 July, he said. He added: This proves what I have said repeatedly; the Israeli Government does not respect its agreements.

Al-Tarifi called for an Arab position and international action to expose Israel's methods and force it to respect agreements and fulfill promises. Regarding this, he referred to the Palestinian prisoners, which Israel refuses to release.

It was agreed, he said, that the negotiations will resume next week and that contacts will continue until the Israelis implement the agreement. He said the Israelis came to this round of talks to deceive the world into thinking that they are serious and engaged in the negotiations. But actually they were not serious about the negotiations, he said.

Says Israel 'Not Serious'

NC2906170195 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1555 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — By the end of their sixth round of negotiations on transferring power to the Palestinian Authority at noon today, the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators failed to reach an agreement.

Palestinian chief negotiator Jamil al-Tarifi repeated his accusations that the Israeli side is not serious and is

obstructing agreement. The Israelis are obviously not committed to the 1 July deadline, he said.

He said the head of the Israeli delegation has no authority to discuss land, while the Palestinian delegation enjoys full authority to reach and sign any agreement.

He said that in many committees the Israelis say they will come back with an answer on some issue, but then they never do. He noted that this round of negotiations lasted for only a day and a half while [words indistinct] most of the committees were not working.

Al-Tarifi said: The Israelis tried to send us a paper yesterday on how to speedily transfer eight areas of responsibility before 1 July. But there are contradictions: The head of the Israeli delegation earlier said that we were on negotiating a full transfer of power, but yesterday he was talking about an early empowerment.

Al-Tarifi expressed his belief that there is a conflict inside the Israeli delegation and the committees. He stressed that the Palestinian side is always available to accept the transfer of power, saying that the Palestinians are authorized to sign.

We agreed to continue contacts inside [the occupied territories] tomorrow to see how we can reach a solution, al-Tarifi said, adding that the next round of negotiations will be held in Cairo on Tuesday [4 July].

Al-Tarifi emphasized that peace is a strategic option for the Palestinians. He said the Palestinians will continue the negotiations and will not concede their rights. He accused Israel of distorting facts before the world public.

He stressed that there will be no Palestinian elections under Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

For his part, Israeli chief negotiator General Oren Shahor said the two delegations will continue talks in Cairo next week to discuss the transfer of six areas of power, with the possibility of adding the water sector to the next round's discussions.

Shahaq: Gaps With Syria Remain 'Very Wide'

TA2906152595 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1500 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq said that Israel and Syria are still far from reaching understandings and agreement on security arrangements. The chief of staff noted that he could not point to progress in any field and said that the gaps in the parties' positions remained very wide.

Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that Chief of Staff Shahaq was speaking after meeting President Clinton and Syrian Chief of Staff al-Shihabi

in the White House. Chief of Staff al-Shihabi told President Clinton that the talks with his Israeli counterpart were very serious.

A source in the Israeli delegation said Chief of Staff Shahaq told Clinton that gaps remain between the parties' positions, but that there is room to continue

talking in an attempt to bridge differences. As for the document published by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, the source said that its publication has caused damage and that the chief of staff had not received any document or instructions similar to what was published.

Algeria

Government-FIS Talks Approach 'Successful' End

LD2906200195 Paris Radio France International
in French 1830 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, negotiations between the president's office and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] are reported to have made a lot of progress: Shaykh Hosni Slimani, who is regarded as the main intermediary said this to the Algiers daily LA TRIBUNE. Muriel Pomponne:

[Pomponne] The interview with Shaykh Hosni Slimani confirms the news that has been appearing in the Algerian press since the beginning of the month: It appears that there have indeed been contacts between the Algerian Government and FIS, and these contacts are apparently on the point of coming to a successful conclusion.

It seems that the agreement concerns the release of some of the FIS leaders against a commitment to put an end to the violence, which would make it possible to hold the presidential elections that the authorities so much want.

According to Slimani everything should be settled by the end of summer. Anyway, the negotiations, in which Ali Belhadj, the FIS's second in command, is taking part, are still stumbling over the rehabilitation of the FIS and the guarantees to be given it.

This is the first time that a personality who has already been an intermediary between the FIS and the government has spoken about the negotiations, but a few days ago the state television said that leaders of the Islamist movement had contacted the president's office to return to dialogue. Until then, the authorities had been denying this categorically.

Accord Reached With UGTA; Strike Canceled

LD2906210895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1800 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The government and the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] have reached an agreement. The agreement was signed this afternoon by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and Abdelhak Benhamouda, the union's secretary general. Our correspondent Linda Abdoune has more:

[Abdoune] To begin with, there are five emergency measures:

1. Family benefits will rise from 1 October by 150 dinars. That is to say, 150 dinars per child per month for every salaried worker whose monthly income does

not exceed 15,000 dinars. This increase will be limited, however, to a maximum of five children.

2. All workers who were unfairly dismissed and recognized as such by a decision of the courts will, by the end of next September at the latest, be reinstated in their jobs.

3. All companies in the building trade who owe their employees wages in arrears will, by the end of July at the latest, be required to settle in full the wages due.

4. Within three months at most, the government and the UGTA will draw up a program for the construction of subsidized housing intended solely for workers.

5. Workers made redundant for economic reasons will be given priority in the small business creation program.

In addition to these five measures, there is the implementation on 1 July of the 10 percent rise in basic wages — a measure that will be extended to government employees next September.

There are three further measures whose positive effects will be felt in the medium term:

1. Reductions in the rate of general income tax [impôt sur le revenu global] for single, childless workers will be incorporated into the 1996 budget.

2. Relations between employers, workers, and their union representatives will be made smoother so as to reflect current economic realities, by means of a complete overhaul of labor legislation enacted since 1990.

3. This is undoubtedly one of the most important measures — the social security issue will be examined in order to rectify the management of the central social security funding body and to improve its ability to deliver services.

[Announcer] Is the agreement a good one? This is what Abdelhak Benhamouda said to Mohand Raddaoui.

[Begin Benhamouda recording] [Words indistinct] It is a good agreement. I can tell you, on the one hand, it is a good agreement because we are applying... [pauses] We have settled many problems. For example, if I [word indistinct] to mention child benefit, I could mention the subsidized housing, the unpaid wages, I could mention... [pauses] All this is going to help with the recovery, since one cannot really speak of recovery in a situation that has so many conflicts and social troubles. In that context, I can tell you that this agreement might contribute in a positive way to an overall improvement in the workplace. [end recording]

[Announcer] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi believes the agreement is worthwhile and demonstrates a spirit of consensus.

[Begin Sifi recording] I think this agreement is worthwhile in itself, since it carries a relatively robust compensation that will buoy up the purchasing power of citizens, especially of working people who have suffered from the implementation of the transitional period program. Our encounter has also allowed us to tackle other aspects of interest to workers, and we have thus been able to take decisions that concern them, and that will be of benefit to them — decisions that will have concrete, material consequences, such as help with workers' housing, to be funded from the social welfare budget. There are other aspects, such as the overhaul of labor legislation so that it will be better adapted to actual conditions in this country. This is worthwhile both for the government and for the UGTA, and it is of value to the workers as well, because these laws will more closely correspond to the changing reality of the country, and will take account of the implementation of the government's program, not to mention the country's initiation into the market economy. In brief, we can say that besides the solid results we have reached we have also shown that consultation and dialogue are highly productive, and that — as I said the day before we began these negotiations — there are no insoluble problems once all sides make an effort and get to work in an atmosphere of openness and sincerity. [end recording]

[Announcer] It goes without saying that, now that this agreement has been reached between the government and the UGTA, the general strike called for 3 July will not now take place.

Zeroual Returns From Visit to Egypt, UAE

LD2906215795 *Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On his arrival at the airport tonight, head of state Liamine Zeroual said he is very happy to be back home. He added that his visit to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] was an opportunity to raise all the issues which are of common interest and especially the Arab issues which concern the Arab world. Bilateral relations were also discussed during the two visits. New provisions were made to develop these relations in various sectors.

In our talks both in Egypt and the UAE, the head of state said, we sensed a feeling of genuine brotherhood and total solidarity with the Algerian people. Also, our participation in the 31st OAU summit was an opportunity to bolster relations with all the fraternal African states. We also stressed Algeria's commitment to the OAU and our total solidarity with all the fraternal African states.

The head of state said: On the summit sidelines, we made several contacts with brother leaders of African states. In conclusion, the head of state pointed out that the election of an Algerian representative to the African human rights committee reflects Algeria's position among all the African states.

Security Forces Kill 38 Terrorists in Recent Days

LD0307071495 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement from the security services said yesterday that 38 terrorists were killed by the security forces during search operations carried out between 27 June and 1 July in many provinces of the homeland, including Algiers, Oum El Bouaghi, Sidi Bel Abbes, Jijel, Blida, (Chlef), Tipasa, Bouira, and Mascara.

The statement added that a number of automatic weapons, pistols, hunting rifles, and instigative tapes, which the terrorists possessed, were seized.

Egypt

Cairo Denies Sudanese Statement on New Clash

NC3006182595 *London MBC Television in Arabic 1818 GMT 30 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear viewers, this urgent report just in: A short time ago, a source in the Egyptian Defense Ministry denied a Sudanese official statement that a second clash had occurred in the Hala'ib triangle.

Al-Baz on Developments With Sudan, Terrorism

NC0107100995 *Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Jul 95*

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, by two unidentified correspondents; place and date not given; from the "Good Morning Egypt" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] The streets in Egypt are dangerous. Immediately after the incident, I interviewed people in the street. They were furious.

[Al-Baz] This is natural. Egyptians are cohesive and they consider the head of state to be a symbol of Egypt. It is as if all of Egypt was there, at the attack scene. It was an attack against Egypt through its president. People wonder how anyone could dare to do that. The people want information and they also want to know our reaction.

It is important for this reaction to be measured, restrained, and realistic, but strong. We should never be driven into foolish or nervous reactions. The president faced the incident itself without being nervous. Likewise, the reaction should be calm and calculated. We should be up to the responsibility of waiting until the investigations are complete, knowing exactly who the responsible parties are, and what the role of each party is. We can then react accordingly. We should never be dragged into things like this.

Obviously, more than one person was involved, and they received assistance. We want to know who offered it and who the involved parties are. It is clear that foreign sides were involved. There may be some Egyptians involved in the attack, but nzon-Egyptians and some foreign sides also helped in the mission, giving some of them forged passports with new names as a cover, helping them with transportation, etc. We are trying to learn the facts and act based on them, not on the basis of suspicions or fears. We do not pass judgment based on suspicion.

[Correspondent] We learned that Sudan was the responsible party. Perhaps everyone read in today's newspapers that [Sudanese President 'Umar] al-Bashir ordered general mobilization in Sudan. Is this a military maneuver? Will there be a military confrontation, or what?

[Al-Baz] No, no. First, we will never be dragged into a military confrontation with Sudan. We view Sudan not only as a fraternal country, but as a twin country. Sudan is Egypt's strategic support and Egypt is Sudan's strategic support. We are linked by very strong bonds. Family relations are even more important than interests. Regarding the Nile, this is not water coming to us from Sudan; 80 percent of the water that comes to Egypt originates in Ethiopia's T'ana lake, not from Sudan. So, this is not the issue. The important thing is the strong links and bonds between Egypt and Sudan. We must not give any regime a chance to sour the relations or trouble the water between us and the [Sudanese] people.

[Correspondent] Why do you think he [al-Bashir] did this?

[Al-Baz] As I said, we cannot pass judgment before we see the facts, as they emerge from evidence, documents, and confessions. Investigations in Ethiopia are far more comprehensive than people think. Everything will become clear. But what we say, generally... [pauses] because we noticed that Sudan gets involved in many operations threatening Egypt's national security. This is a new phenomenon, because Sudan, apart from minor differences, is supposed to be... [pauses] We noticed two things: At certain times, whenever a Sudanese government faced internal problems it could not solve, it tried to divert attention so that the public would

not know the real situation; it staged theatrics like this [mobilization]. What general mobilization? First, Egypt cannot think of harming Sudan. The president said this two days ago; namely, that we cannot possibly allow any bloodshed. For us, Egyptians and Sudanese are the same. It is not possible for us to think of a military encounter. We do not respond to particular incidents by causing pain and suffering to the Sudanese. But we leave this Sudanese clique, which we believe stole power from the Sudanese, to the Sudanese. At first we did not see that this clique usurped power; there was not enough evidence, but things later became clear. It became clear that the Sudanese people are suffering from the so-called National Islamic Front more than any other country is suffering from it, and more than we are. We suffer from time to time, but the Sudanese people suffer day and night, all the time. The clique must be handled by the Sudanese. We will not interfere. The president made this very clear and he has repeated it many times. We do not interfere in nations' internal affairs. If we obtain concrete documents and evidence that the Sudanese Government, official Sudanese quarters, or those who lead the official quarters—and we know who leads who—was involved; if this is a fact beyond speculation—if official or semi-official quarters are involved, then we have the power to confront it. But, we will not confront it by military action, buildup, or by responding to the theatrics. This is because theatrics are meant to distract people from their daily suffering and to mobilize the Sudanese people [against Egypt]. Sudanese cannot be anti-Egypt, and Egyptians cannot be anti-Sudan. They know this very well. Often in the past, Sudanese opposition forces came to us and tried to say that the situation is so and so and Egypt must help them. We always responded that, although we do not discount the Sudanese right to oppose, we do not like to get involved in such things. If we learn from them—about old or new issues—that documents exist that prove Sudan was involved in helping to direct and strengthen some terrorist activities against Egypt [sentence incomplete as heard]. This is bizarre.

[Correspondent] But this time the situation is different, because it is an attack of Egypt's symbol.

[Al-Baz] Of course, everything has an end. We have many legal, political means, without resorting to military operations or things like that.

[Correspondent] Perhaps cooperation from other nations would be helpful. President Mubarak asked for such cooperation especially from the countries that profess freedom and human rights. Freedom means that you can have your own ideas and we can debate them, but you are not free to disagree with me and kill me because of the disagreement. On this basis, he

called on all countries to deny asylum to terrorists and pointed out that those countries offering particular services to terrorists might suffer in the future because of it. Mubarak called for international cooperation on this issue. According to some reports, there are terrorist training camps in some of Sudan's farms and factories. What can we do about this? We are saying that we will not overthrow the Sudanese regime. But what can Egypt do about these camps?

[Al-Baz] Concerning these camps, there are ways that we can use the international stage to put pressure on Sudan to make it change this policy completely. Even before the sinful assassination attempt, there were documented reports about these camps in Sudan. One camp is 35 km from Khartoum. The locations of other camps are also known. They claim that they are farms but are actually training camps. Some agriculture takes place there as a cover. Who exactly is carrying out the training, which people are in charge? What Arabs are being trained there? Who are the non-Arabs? Who sent them there? What is the purpose of this activity against several neighboring countries? Not only is Egypt targeted but Algeria and Tunisia also are, and in some cases other countries. We can resort to legal means to confront this development. We will be doing this as well for the sake of the Sudanese people.

The Sudanese cannot allow their territory to undermine the security of a country, Egypt, which they regard as their country's strategic strength, the basic defender of Sudanese security and interests. How can Sudan become a destabilizing factor against Egyptian security? Anyone who tries to undermine Egypt's security will only bring harm to himself. There are other countries, not only in this region, but also in Europe, and in the West in general, which maintain a double standard on this under the banner that they respect liberty and human rights.

First, they do not allow anyone to undermine their security and any such attempt, as we have seen, is met with not only severe measures but also with severe repression. But when it comes to the security of others, they try to adopt a position based on hypocrisy and double standards. Those who call it a double standard are right. They use human rights as a pretext. Human rights should never be used for a criminal to receive asylum in a certain country just because his country has the death penalty. What business is it of theirs if his country has the death penalty? Each country is free to use or not to use the death penalty. The United States has the death penalty. And you too, you used to have the death penalty in your countries. Three-quarters of the world's countries have the death penalty. The death penalty points out the concept of just punishment. We absolutely reject the position adopted by these

countries, not only because they give asylum to such individuals but also because they permit them to carry out political activities. They claim that they do not allow them to carry out political activities but they do not want to deprive them of the right to contact others. We know that such activities are carried out in some of these countries. These countries are basically our friends, but the role they play is based on hypocrisy and the human rights banner. When Egypt demands that someone be handed over who was sentenced to death or life imprisonment at hard labor for proven involvement in particular activities, and Egypt wants to implement the sentence passed against him, this does not violate human rights. And who says that human rights means that a criminal can escape a sentence?

[Correspondent] Allow me to bring up a question commonly asked by the public. When Israel occasionally arrests someone who is in another country [sentence unfinished as heard] Take [former Israeli nuclear technician Mordekhay] Vanunu's case for example. They said that he exposed secrets about Israel's military nuclear program and threatened Israel's national security. They brought him back and from where? From the United States [as heard]. Why doesn't Egypt do this? Of course, people will comment: They kidnapped him, etc. But eventually the case will quiet down. Anything is better than the harm that Egypt might suffer from the existing clandestine groups and the fugitives who are living in various parts of the world, harming Egypt and stabbing it in the back.

[Al-Baz] We still believe that it is better for us—and more dignified for our image—not to do this. Egypt has always been a nation of law, standards, and accepted conventions. It is not a country that can do such things. At certain times in countries' histories, some situations may force a country to carry out such actions. We believe, however, that our country is stable enough. The best proof is that they cannot do anything at all here, inside Egypt.

[Correspondent, interrupting] They did it abroad.

[Al-Baz] They went and did it abroad. All Egyptian territory is secure. People are safe in it. Therefore, they could do nothing here and went abroad. I say that we can urge these countries insistently. We can expose the way they behave and their false claims about human rights. All right, what about human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina? What have they done there? Have they done anything? We will not leave these countries without asking them to do something about this. We will ask them directly. Also, we can ask them collectively—at some international forums—and tell them that they are doing this under the human rights banner, are

threatening Egypt's national security, and are permitting particular individuals to carry out illegal acts. These individuals continue doing these things. They meet, send faxes, and hold meetings in very unconventional places, Switzerland, Denmark, other countries. We will not let this pass but we will also not adopt any illegal measures. We will abide by the law. We believe, however, that by exposing this to the public in those and other countries, they will be too afraid to continue doing this and will know that there are limits to such shameful conduct. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Musa on Relations With Sudan

Sudan Must Prove Noninvolvement

NC0107195895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1935 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that military action against Sudan was not on the table. In remarks he made this evening, Musa stated that efforts must be made to control things and put them on the right track.

The foreign minister added that Sudan is accused of backing terrorist operations, and it has a responsibility to deny these charges and the Sudanese Government must prove that it does not back terrorism.

Asked about the measures that President Husni Mubarak had announced he would take, the foreign minister said that there are several political and legal measures that Egypt could undertake. He noted that the matter needs nothing more than putting things on the right track and ending any support or backing of terrorism and the terrorizing of Arab societies. He stressed that these things cannot be acceptable and will not succeed.

Regarding the situation in Hala'ib, Musa stated that the question of Hala'ib is completely separate. The important issue concerns how far Sudan is involved in what has taken place and what could take place in terms of support for terrorist movements and terrorist actions, he added. He noted that the door is still open for understanding between the Egyptian and Sudanese people and between Sudan and its Arab sisters, provided Sudan changes its direction and proves that it does not support terrorism.

The foreign minister added that the important thing concerns how far Sudan is involved in what has happened and in backing crime and terrorism. He pointed out that all the Arab and world capitals are talking about this matter, and Sudan has a responsibility to deny this charge against itself and to prove to the Arab and world community that it has not carried out this crime.

Sudan Must Declare 'No Connection'

NC0107221995 London MBC Television in Arabic
2150 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Sama' al-Qasabi in Cairo on 1 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview with MBC, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that Sudan must declare that it had no connection with the assassination attempt [on President Mubarak] and that it will not back terrorism in the future. Musa's remarks add to the ongoing efforts to calm the atmosphere. Musa emphasized that Egypt does not seek to wage a military campaign.

[Begin Musa recording] First, military movements against sisterly Sudan were not on the table. President Mubarak's recent and earlier remarks in this regard are clear. Thus, there must be an alternative and an action to regulate matters and put them on track regarding Sudan's relations with its neighbors and with Egypt. And this is the essence of the Egyptian policy, which has not changed. Naturally, it is clear that there is a certain argument related to the role of Sudan, or the Sudanese regime, in backing terrorist movements in the region. This is something that all the Arab and world capitals are talking about. Sudan has a responsibility to deny this charge and the Sudanese Government must prove to the Arab world in particular and to the world community that it has not done so, that it will not do so, and that it does not support terrorism. These are important and basic matters, and the burden of proof now falls on its shoulders. [end recording]

In the interview he gave to Sama' al-Qasabi this evening in Cairo, Minister Musa stressed that he had had a contact with his Sudanese counterpart in Addis Ababa and that contacts with Sudan must continue.

[Begin Musa recording] There was no contact except the one during the African summit, in which more than one representative of the Sudanese delegation voiced their congratulations over the escape of President Mubarak. Perhaps this reflects the personal views of the Sudanese brothers, who as you know are a good and noble Arab people. However, the contacts with the brother Sudanese will continue. [end recording]

Officials React to al-Turabi's Remarks on Nile Water

Musa Warns al-Turabi

NC0207104495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1020 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front in Sudan, to keep away from subjects and issues that are much bigger than he is.

Responding to al-Turabi's statements threatening to revoke Nile River water accords, Musa said today: "I call on him not to play with fire and at the same time not to play with water."

Al-Turabi last night threatened to interfere in agreements dividing Nile River water between Sudan and Egypt. He said: "Water supplies to Egypt pass through this country. Egypt does not have ground water, so if it provokes the Sudanese to interfere with the Nile water, it will be deadly."

Water Minister's Reaction

NC0207152595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has ruled out the possibility of Sudan's unilaterally tampering with or abrogating the Nile water agreement. He said that the agreement was signed in 1959 within the framework of the international law and norms and that no party can unilaterally repeal it. In a statement to correspondents today in comment on threats by Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic National Front in Sudan, he said that it is difficult and even impossible for any party to infringe upon this agreement without negotiations with the other parties. He wondered what party Hasan al-Turabi represents to talk about such issues. He said that the sane people in Sudan fully understand that the Nile water agreement is a "red line" that cannot be crossed, noting that this agreement is the mechanism followed by the Nile basin countries in accordance with the international charters.

Engineer Radi called on the Sudanese to learn this lesson and stressed that Sudan cannot take one drop of Egypt's share because Egypt's share of 55 billion cubic meters is guaranteed in accordance with the Nile water agreement.

Eng. Radi pointed out that the issue of water in particular differs from other issues and problems because it has to do with the life of a people and the future of a nation

and is governed by international laws. He noted that any action by Sudan regarding the Nile water will harm Sudan before Egypt. He said that the Nile water agreement regulates and guarantees Egypt's historical right which cannot be encroached upon because this right is the "fire line" that cannot be crossed.

It is worth noting that the signatory countries of the Nile water agreement are Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, and Egypt. It should be recalled that all the agreements signed by the Nile basin countries in 1902, 1929, and 1959 regulate and arrange the right of every country to Nile water, particularly the countries located at the mouth of the river.

Further on Water Minister's Warning

NC0207194895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has made an exclusive statement to the chief of the Cairo Radio central news unit. In response to a question on the continuing provocative statements by the Khartoum government, he said that President Husni Mubarak's warning to the ruling gang in Sudan was clear, decisive, categorical, and unequivocal, and was not merely empty words, as certain radios said. This gang must understand well that President Mubarak, the Egyptian people, and even the Sudanese people themselves, are fed up and their patience has run out with the excesses and aggressive actions committed by this regime against Egypt, its security, and stability.

Al-Sharif added: They must realize the enormity of their erroneous actions against Egypt and the international community. They have turned their country into a den sheltering, training, and exporting terrorists. We want to repeat and remind them of President Mubarak's warning and threat that any erroneous action or excesses by the Sudanese regime will be answered with force and decisiveness. He said that during his meeting with the envoy of the United Arab Emirates president, President Mubarak this morning stressed, as did al-Sharif himself after this meeting, that all options are open to President Mubarak and without limits to respond to the Sudanese regime in order to safeguard Egypt's national security. Egypt will use all appropriate means with a ruling faction that commits such actions and excesses without respect for international laws and norms or the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of others.

Al-Sharif said: Notwithstanding all these options open to President Mubarak, the Sudanese rulers must stop beating the drums of war and their empty threats intended to cover up their crimes against Egypt, its

president, and people. If they are using these threats for local consumption, we maintain that these threats condemn them before the whole world. He said that President Mubarak is fond of the Sudanese people because they are good and fraternal people and we appreciate them and realize that they must not be held accountable for the excesses and recklessness of their rulers.

Asked about al-Bashir's threats and his beating the drums of war, al-Sharif said that all avenues and options are open and clear and we are decisive. Egypt has a right to have forces on its land, in its airspace, and on its seas to protect itself.

In response to a question on the world media's demand for a decisive confrontation of terrorism, al-Sharif said that we in Egypt are in an all-out confrontation with terrorism. Terrorists and their dens have been struck and they have collapsed from within. Egypt, he said, is enjoying stability and is in full control. We have a clear and comprehensive plan to uproot terrorism from people's minds. We declared this to President Mubarak as we congratulated him. President Mubarak called on all writers to pull up the roots of terrorism and we call on the international community to classify terrorism as organized crime.

Asked about hints and threats coming from Omdurman to break the Nile water agreements, al-Sharif said that this represents a flagrant and serious violation of all international agreements and charters. He wondered if al-Turabi imagines that the future of nations can be threatened by such empty talk. He called on the Sudanese rulers to avoid using such empty talk and beating the drums of war. He said: Let everyone know his size. He called for respecting charters and constants so that no damage may occur. He reasserted that all options are open to President Mubarak, which is an assignment to him by the people, to shoulder responsibility and safeguard Egypt's national security.

Information Minister Warns Sudan

*NC0207152795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1500 GMT 2 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the Sudanese regime still maintains an arrogant attitude, lives in a trance, and makes empty threats that are rejected. In a statement after President Mubarak received Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Zayid, United Arab Emirates Information Ministry under secretary, he said that the ruling faction which is playing with the fate of the Sudanese people must realize President Mubarak's decisive and categorical warnings that any

mistake or excesses will be confronted with all force and decisiveness. He noted that all options are open to President Mubarak and without limits or controls in confronting any action or measure that may threaten Egypt's national security or provoke the Egyptian people's feelings. He pointed out that President Mubarak bears in mind the fraternal Sudanese people's stance which rejects all the Sudanese regime's practices. He said that notwithstanding these open options, President Mubarak takes the Sudanese people into consideration because he does not want to harm them.

Mubarak Warns Sudan

*NC0207192795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1911 GMT 2 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has clearly and firmly warned against any encroachment on the Nile waters which are the lifeline for all Egyptian people. He said: Any step in that direction will force us to a confrontation and to a defense of our rights and lives.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AKHBAR to be published tomorrow, President Mubarak said that all the options are open for dealing with the Sudanese regime's involvement in the plot against Egypt's security and stability and its support for terrorism which is directed against the Egyptian people.

He added: If the Sudanese regime, led by Hasan al-Turabi, does not desist, then we will take the necessary measures to confront the schemes against Egypt.

President Mubarak stressed that he is warning those in Khartoum, who are playing with fire, against taking any action of this sort because the response will be more than they imagine.

President Mubarak said that he means every word he says and adheres to all his warnings to the Sudanese regime against involvement in plots against Egypt's security and its continued backing for terrorism with financing and weapons.

SDUG Claims al-Turabi Involvement in Attack

*NC0107152595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [SDUP] has again condemned the criminal attack on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The party sent a memorandum to the Arab League in which it affirmed that the al-Turabi front was involved in the assassination attempt. The memorandum noted that all the material evidence

proves the front's involvement in preparing and participating in this base conspiracy. The SDUP provided evidence for what it is saying. It mentioned that al-Turabi's security adviser Major General al-Fatih 'Urwa and Sudanese Military Intelligence Chief Major General Muhammad Ahmad al-Dabi were in Addis Ababa a few days before the conspiracy was carried out. The party said that Muhammad Siraj, the mastermind behind the conspiracy, is Sudanese. He is one of the symbols of the front and its secret military wing. The weapons that were found in Kawm Umbu by the Egyptian security authorities prove that the al-Turabi front constructed its vile scheme on the basis of sabotage in Egypt and attacking its leadership abroad. The party noted that the infiltration of terrorists across the Sudanese border with Egypt has become clear to all the Sudanese who monitor events early on and who are concerned about the stability of the security situation in Egypt as much as that in Sudan. The SDUP memorandum to the Arab League affirmed that the sinful attack targeted President Mubarak but not any of the other African leaders taking part in the conference because of his vanguard role in the Middle East peace march which Egypt is leading with firm and strong steps in accordance with a clear vision and specific targets.

Sudanese Officer Affirms Sudan Organized Plot

NC0207212795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2045 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA) — Colonel 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ja'far, an officer in the Sudanese intelligence, has affirmed that the Sudanese regime is involved in the treacherous attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa and that the al-Bashir/al-Turabi regime has been planning to assassinate Mubarak since 1990. They opened Sudan wide to terrorists of all nationalities.

Col. Ja'far, who managed to escape to Cairo after rejecting the terrorism of the al-Bashir/al-Turabi regime, affirmed that Sudanese Major Muhammad Siraj-al-Din, engineer of the failed assassination attempt, is an officer in Sudanese intelligence. He was his comrade for many years and is the arm of Dr. Nafi' 'Ali Nafi', current chief of Sudanese intelligence.

Col. Ja'far revealed in an interview with AL-AKHBAR newspaper to be published in its issue tomorrow where the ruling regime in Sudan set up camps to train terrorists and their cadres. He said these places are in an area known as al-Mazari' in Suba outside Khartoum in the area of al-Fatashah near Omdurman.

He said that he personally participated in preparing al-Mazari' and buying villas, which housed Egyptians,

Saudis, Algerians, Iraqi and Iranian cadres, and many other nationalities, all of whose objective is to export terrorism to the countries in the region, particularly Egypt and the Gulf countries, and implement a large scheme to control the sources of the Nile in Ethiopia.

The Sudanese intelligence officer said: I do not believe that it is far-fetched that the treacherous attempt against President Husni Mubarak was organized by the al-Bashir government and al-Turabi's regime. He affirmed that he worked with them very closely and knows their hostility to the democratic system in Egypt and its people. He added that they started planning President Mubarak's assassination since 1990, planning that it would happen in Egypt. But the alertness of the Egyptian security prevented that, and so they resorted to places abroad, particularly Ethiopia.

He said that Sudan has also become a playground for the Iranians and the Khomeyni regime which has infiltrated the Red Sea. Thus, Iraq and Iran met in Sudan to export terrorism into the Arab world.

He clarified that al-Bashir has fooled most of the Armed Forces officers into colluding with al-Turabi. He said there are now in the Sudanese Army secret cells working on putting things right. He pointed out that al-Fatih 'Urwah, al-Bashir's security adviser, is now coordinator for the operation attempting to assassinate President Mubarak and is the man in charge of it.

Col. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ja'far clarified that al-Bashir's regime in Sudan finds that declaring war is for him a way out of a big popular revolution resulting from the wrong policies that have made the Sudanese people groan under the grip of al-Turabi/al-Bashir, particularly after Sudan has become a warehouse for transporting weapons, part of which have been smuggled to Iraq.

Commentary Warns Sudan Regime Against Provocation

NC0107202195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic GMT 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Al-Bashir and al-Turabi Declare General Mobilization To Protect Their Collapsing Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the people who are ardent about their Arabism and Islam are sadly wondering about the deterioration, weakness, disarray, and defamation of the Arab nation, we ask these honest Arabs what is strange about this since the Arab nation has been afflicted with dictatorial regimes. These regimes seized power through treachery, deception, and false slogans and imposed themselves on their peoples by

force. These regimes are tampering with the Arab nation's security and are threatening national Arab security by adopting terrorism, sheltering mercenaries and criminals, and exporting them to other fraternal Arab countries.

The best proof of this is the two repugnant regimes which weigh heavily on their peoples in Iraq and Sudan. Both regimes have given and are giving the enemies of Arabs and Muslims the best services that these enemies themselves were unable to obtain. To give another tangible proof, it is enough to remind the Arabs of the serious repercussions the Arab nation is suffering as a result of the crime of the era that the executioner of Iraq committed against the Arab people of Kuwait. History is repeating itself in another way. The ruling gang in Sudan is plotting against Egypt, the heart of the Arabs and the haven of the al-Azhar Mosque, in a criminal and lowly way that runs counter to all the principles of Islam, the Arab and Islamic fraternity, diplomatic norms, and international law. It is indeed strange and regrettable that these crimes are hatched by the al-Turabi/al-Bashir regime against the Egyptian people in the name of Islam, which is innocent of them. Islam bans lies, betrayal, plundering of Muslims' funds, bloodshed, and murder.

The heinous crime that the henchmen of al-Turabi and al-Bashir engineered against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa was not directed against the person of Mubarak, but the Egyptian people. The entire Egyptian people condemned this cowardly act and declared before the whole world their homage and loyalty to their leader. This fact shocked and stunned speechless the regime of al-Turabi and his disciple al-Bashir, now that they have been exposed before the Arabs, Muslims, and Africans. There is evidence that the Khartoum rulers have been planning this crime since March. Thus, the Addis Ababa crime is a direct act of aggression against the Egyptian Arab people. The Egyptian people have a right to confront this crime with all their strength and are capable of doing so. The first to realize this are al-Bashir and his master the charlatan al-Turabi. The whole world has heard this said by all factions of the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people have called for chastising [ta'dib] this ruling criminal gang in Sudan.

In a desperate attempt to dissociate themselves from the heinous crime and save face, al-Turabi and his disciple al-Bashir reiterated their previous lies against Egypt. However, the whole world turned a deaf ear to them. So they again raised the issue of the Egyptian area of Hala'ib, which they have previously used as a pretext to divert attention from the domestic problems and the poor economic situation in Sudan. Things took a different turn this time: The Egyptian response was swift and strong. President Mubarak warned the al-Turabi/al-

Bashir regime against playing with fire. What was the result? Al-Bashir, the servant of al-Turabi, exploited the anniversary of his seizure of power to gather the Islamic Front members yesterday. He declared mobilization and called for jihad to confront the challenges facing his regime because of its Islamic orientations, as he said. What is this jihad that this crook is talking about? What mobilization is he calling for? Jihad has always been a way for good, right, and well-being, and not for committing crime, sheltering terrorists, establishing camps for mercenaries, and assailing Egypt, the heart and national symbol of Arabism and Islam, as the honest people of Sudan themselves concede. Al-Bashir is talking about mobilization and providing his followers with arms. We tell him that you must first provide food and medical treatment for these people instead of embroiling them in a dangerous risk that they have nothing to do with. These moves will intimidate no one. They are meant to protect the regime from the free men of Sudan and to divert the attention of the Sudanese Armed Forces from annihilating the al-Bashir/al-Turabi regime.

We pose this important question: Where do you get these weapons for these starving people under the current stifling economic crisis? These are the weapons that you will collect from the terrorist camps funded by the enemies of Arabs for whom you work and who want to strike at Egypt and, consequently, the whole Arab nation. But how far! How impossible. The countdown for this terrorist regime has begun. The Egyptian people and their brave men know full well how to respond to any attempt to harm Egypt's security and territory by the Khartoum rulers and the only method they understand. Once again, we say forewarned is forearmed.

Libya

Editor Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Remarks

LD0107094595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0745 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Valletta, 1 Jul — The Maltese weekly BUSINESS WEEKLY has carried statements made by the U.S. ambassador in Malta that are hostile to the Libyan Arab people. They include slanders with which he aimed to insult the Great Jamahiriyah and discredit its stances. In these statements, which the paper published the day before yesterday, the ambassador claimed that Libya supported what he called terrorism, and said that this was something the United States have always fought and will continue to fight.

The JANA political editor has commented on these statements, which are part of the campaign of aggression and slander the United States is waging against the Great

Jamahiriyyah. The JANA political editor says the U.S. Government is the last who should talk about terrorism, since its record is full of terrorist practices against the peoples of the world, motivated by the mania of power and arrogance and based on a long legacy of horrible international terrorist crimes, whose hideousness has shaken the whole of humanity.

The evidence of these terrorist crimes still exists in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on which America dropped atomic bombs. America's military interventions, its invasion of Latin American countries, its dirty wars against Korea and Vietnam, its long blockade of peoples who reject its hegemony and the designs implemented by the Central Intelligence Agency to fragment and divide countries through internal wars it foments and fans in different parts of the world will not be erased from the memory of peoples who aspire to freedom.

The editor indicated that the Great Jamahiriyyah is in the forefront of the victims of U.S. terrorism... from the launching of military aggression against it to the imposition of unjust resolutions against it, for reasons the U.S. propaganda and misinformation machine has not been able to conceal from the mind of the world.

The editor stressed that we should not be surprised that U.S. Government officials repeat slanders and statements hostile to the Great Jamahiriyyah, which strongly and courageously resists the conspiracies and designs of the U.S. Government against the Arab nation and peoples who resist and reject the policy of U.S. hegemony throughout the world.

General People's Congress Opens Session

LD0107153595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyyah Radio
Network in Arabic 1304 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In consolidation of the power of the sovereign people, who alone have the power, and in embodiment of the direct people's democracy, the pillar of the wonderful Jamhiri system, the meetings of the general people's congresses, committees, syndicates, trade unions, and the vocational associations of the basic people congress, started sessions at "al-Wafa" hall in Surt this morning to formulate the resolutions of the basic people's congresses which they adopted in their session in 1424 (?since the birth of the prophet in 570 AD) regarding the agenda of the basic people's congresses for the years 1424-1425 [1994-95] and to endorse the general budget and its law as well as to follow-up the implementation of the general budget for the year 1423 [1993]. [passage omitted]

The secretary of the General People's Congress [Zanati Muhammad al-Zanati] delivered a speech in which he said:

We meet today to formulate the items of the agenda endorsed by the basic people's congresses, holders of sovereignty and power in this peaceful country, with God's guidance and guided by the directives of the brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fatih revolution. [passage omitted]

Today we should remind of the unjust measures that have been imposed on our people for a long period now as a result of groundless accusations and a biased information campaign. We have suffered and still suffer a great deal. We remind the people concerned and we call for the lifting of the measures that are based on mere allegation and and urge them to respond to reason and logic announced by the Great Jamahiriyyah. [passage omitted]

The General People Congress put these facts before the peoples of the world and governments and calls for the lifting of the injustice imposed on this peaceful country whose only guilt is its call to live free on the land and under the sun.

Following him, the brother secretary of the affairs of the basic people's congresses at the General People's Congress started to review laws and the issues presented for discussion for the basic people congresses in their forthcoming session. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Chairs Emergency Cabinet Meeting

EA2906192295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting chaired by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, at the council's general secretariat today. The council reviewed the situation following the media and military escalation recently mounted by the president of the Egyptian regime under the influence of the shock affecting him as the result of the attempt to assassinate him during the African summit in Addis Ababa.

The council was briefed the treacherous operations mounted by the Egyptian Armed Forces against police stations and the Sudanese Armed Forces in (Shalatin), Abu-Ramad, and Hala'ib resulting in the martyrdom of a police lieutenant and a constable on 27 June, besides the martyrdom of a member of the Armed Forces on 28 June.

The council discussed various options and adopted a number of decisions and recommendations to confront the situation.

The council condemned the stooge and mercenary role being performed by the scattered remnants of treason in Cairo despite their being Sudanese by supporting the Egyptian regime's conspiracy against the Sudanese people and their historic relationship with the Egyptian people, whom Sudan never hesitated to support in their crises and historic confrontations over the years, in the Egyptian regime's attempt to divert attention from the internal crisis it is now facing in all fields.

Al-Bashir on Eritrean, Egyptian, UK 'Enmity'

LD0107002595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Speech by President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir on the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution in al-Hajj Yusuf on 30 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The scattered mercenaries, agents and traitors who are left behind, who have sold themselves to Sudan's enemies, can be seen today in Eritrea — when Eritrea declared its enmity against Sudan.

We saw them gathering in Cairo, and the president of Cairo [as heard] has declared his hostility to Sudan. We saw them in London, when Kitchener and Gordon's grandchildren declared their enmity toward Sudan and its regime. You have in recent days seen the remnants of the mercenaries, agents, and traitors kneel before Husni Mubarak to call on him to act against Sudan and urge him to invade Sudan. [passage omitted]

Some agents gathered in Cairo, and they went to London to call on the English to invade Sudan. [passage omitted] Now the same mercenaries are in Cairo, Eritrea, and London, calling on Sudan's enemies to invade Sudan.

We tell them that the sons of the Sudanese people have decided to defend our territory and protect our honor. We will not relinquish an inch of our territory. [applause] Brothers and sisters: We, the sons of the Sudanese people, have decided to defend our state and our shari'ah. We will defend our territory. We will not relinquish an inch of our territory to an agent, enemy, or traitor. We will provide arms. We will provide arms to everyone able to bear arms. We will train the youth. We will train everyone who is able to bear arms to use arms. We will be fully prepared. Be fully prepared to defend your territory and honor.

This is the new Sudan. This is the Sudan of salvation which carries [words indistinct] to defend their honor, their soil, and their territory. This is the Sudan of

salvation, which its sons decided to build with their hands, and they will defend it with their souls and their blood.

Brother citizens of al-Hajj Yusuf, brother citizens of the Sudanese people: Sudan is today exposed to a big conspiracy being waged by Husni Mubarak to exterminate the National Salvation Revolution. But we say that all these threats will not [word indistinct] the march of Sudan and all the provocations will not prevent us from raising this banner because [words indistinct] we have decided that Sudan should be free and independent.

They single us out. However, we cling to God's law. They only single us out because we have decided to live free in our country and not to kneel and prostrate ourselves, except to God, glory to Him the sublime. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir on Egyptian, Eritrean Plots

EA0207150395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stressed the revolution's interest in developing the rural areas. He said the National Salvation Revolution had been ignited to reserve the country from backwardness, subordination, denominationalism, and partisanship. During an address to the citizens of Halfa al-Jadidah town in Atbara River Province, Kassala State, on the occasion of the country's celebration of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir referred to the sacrifices made by the Sudanese people, particularly in Halfa, on behalf of their Egyptian brothers, but all these sacrifices were repaid in the form of conspiracies targeting Sudanese territory and people. He added: We in Sudan persevered in helping Egypt and Eritrea without insult or offence.

He stressed that Sudan would never accept aggression against its territory or honor nor conspiracy against its people. He said all the Sudanese people were ready to defend every inch of their homeland.

He confirmed Sudan's adherence to Islamic law, which, he said, could never be abandoned.

The president of the Republic referred to the revolution's achievements by way of self-reliance, and said this course would continue to be followed for the sake of the country's honor and progress.

**Al-Turabi Threatens To Revoke Water Accords
With Egypt**

NC0207083195 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0806 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi has warned that the Nile, Egypt's main water supply, is under Sudanese control. He said that the Nile passes through Sudan before it enters Egypt. Therefore, if Sudan feels provoked by Egypt, it will revoke the water agreements. This will have devastating consequences, al-Turabi added.

**Minister Denies Involvement in Anti-Mubarak
Attack**

JN3006115995 *Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic* 30 Jun 95
p 18

[Interview with Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, minister of state for federal administration, by 'Isam Qadamani and Samir Hijawi; in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-RA'I] Sudan, particularly Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, was indirectly accused of involvement in the assassination attempt against President [Husni] Mubarak in Addis Ababa. How would you comment?

[Al-Hajj] I think that any talk about any Sudanese role in the assassination attempt is meaningless. Accusations should not be leveled before the results of an investigation have been revealed.

[AL-RA'Y] Does this mean that Sudanese-Egyptian relations will deteriorate, especially since they have witnessed improvement recently?

[Al-Hajj] Relations with Egypt have not improved in the first place and the visits that were made were useless. [passage omitted]

[AL-RA'Y] How do you evaluate the peace process in the region?

[Al-Hajj] It seems that the no's of the Khartoum summit [rejection of peace with Israel] have ceased to exist. What is more important than this is that each country is dealing with the issue of peace on its own. This basically contradicts the Arab strategy. Thus there is no longer an objective or comprehensive view of peace.

Sudan's position is that it accepts what the Palestinian people accept. We in Sudan believe that there has to be a Palestinian consensus on the proposed formula, which is not available now. The issue of Jerusalem should be viewed within the Islamic, not the Arab, framework. No party can attain a solution to this issue on its own. There has to be an agreement in this regard and regarding any

formula for peace. The process will fail to realize its desired goal if there is no support from all parties.

[AL-RA'Y] Are there any news developments in relations with the West and the United States?

[Al-Hajj] All that is called the traditional West has become part of America. America's problem is not with Sudan but rather with Islam, it is not a problem with what they call a military regime. America deals with many military regimes, therefore talk about a military system is for local consumption. The basic issue is that of an Islamic cultural orientation which has its justifications, motives, and results. It is not directed against America or the West. It is restricted to Muslims and Islam.

I think the Americans are scared from the Iranian experiment. They have an illusion that any Islamic movement is similar to what happened in Iran. Sudan is different from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Libya. They must realize that there are differences just as they realize that there are difference between North Korea and South Korea. It seems that there is some confusion regarding Islam.

There are some positive steps on the part of America. They have started to read and inquire about Islam. I have read at least three papers by American officials on Islam. This is a positive development toward an understating of Islam. [passage omitted]

**Radio: Embassy Statement Denies Assassination
Link**

EA3006205395 *Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio*
Network in English 1800 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has strongly denied Sudan's involvement in the assassination attempt targeting the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak. In a statement issued on Wednesday [28 June], the embassy affirmed that Sudan has no any link with the incident and the attackers.

The statement stressed Sudan's condemnation to the attack which targeted the Egyptian president, adding that the Sudanese Government [is] rejecting the accusation that regards Sudan as responsible for the attempt. Such acts do not cope [as heard] with peaceful tendency of the Sudan and its policy of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries.

The statement [word indistinct] added that these accusations are part of targeting the Islamic orientation of the Sudan.

'Uthman Warns of 'Dire Consequences' of Threats
NC2906212395 London MBC Television in Arabic
2103 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago we telephoned Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman, who is now in Addis Ababa, and asked him to comment on the recent escalation between Egypt and Sudan and the Sudanese Government's position on the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak.

[Begin 'Uthman recording] From the first day, Sudan has clearly announced its position on the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak. Statements were issued in Khartoum, Cairo, and London condemning the incident, denouncing the attack on the Egyptian president, and denouncing the use of assassination as a way of solving political problems and differences.

The escalation is unilateral so far. It was the Egyptian side that attacked the Sudanese forces and caused fatalities. The Sudanese forces have clear instructions in this respect, but they are also committed to defending Sudan's territory, sovereignty, and dignity. This mission must be carried out in the short and long terms. The escalation by the Egyptian side, therefore, may have dire consequences, because the Sudanese side will not let its territory be violated and its sovereignty be taken away and thrown in the street. [end recording]

General Reports Egyptian Troop Movements in Hala'ib

AB2906162895 Paris AFP in English
1604 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, June 29 (AFP) — Egypt is conducting "unusual" troop movements in the disputed Hala'ib border zone on the Red Sea, where tension has risen after a clash, a senior Sudanese general told parliament Thursday [29 June].

A mechanised infantry unit, an airborne unit and a border guard unit were involved in the movements, General Abdallah Oweida told the parliament.

Oweida, the head of parliament's security and defence committee, said "the Sudanese commander in the region has done his best to contain the situation there but his moves have met with no response." However, he told the parliament that the Sudanese army has taken "all necessary security and defence measures for the protection of the national territories," he said.

Egypt's military commander in the border area has called for Sudanese troops to withdraw from Abu Ramad to Hala'ib, further south, but his Sudanese counterpart refused, the general said.

Sudan says two Sudanese policemen, including an officer, were killed and seven others wounded in an attack by the Egyptians in the area on Tuesday. Egypt says one of its patrols came under attack from the Sudanese and three soldiers on either side were wounded.

Halaib, a 17,000 square-kilometre (6,800-sq.-mile) triangle of desert, which holds considerable oil reserves, is claimed by both countries and they have nearly come to blows over it in the past. [passage omitted covered in previously filed material]

Officer: Armed Forces in Hala'ib Ready To Respond

EA2906191295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brigadier Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, the official spokesman of the Armed Forces, has affirmed that the Armed Forces in Hala'ib will remain in their positions and will vigorously and decisively respond to any enemy lying in wait for them, adding that the Armed Forces were aware of the magnitude of the conspiracy being hatched against Sudan and of their responsibilities in this respect. He said that as of today the Armed Forces would not permit any repetition of aggression by the Egyptian Armed Forces against Abu-Ramad station where a Sudanese officer and a soldier were killed and others were wounded, because they were responsible for protecting and securing the homeland. [passage omitted]

Ministry Lists Police Deaths in Egyptian 'Hostility'

EA2906194095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Interior Ministry today issued a statement to the masses of the Sudanese people. It said:

The Egyptian regime's provocations against Sudan's leadership, revolution and people are expressive of its hostility to our cultural course and of a conspiracy against the state of faith in Sudan.

In the course of its provocations at 2000 on 27 June, large numbers of the members of the Egyptian Armed Forces moved treacherously against three Sudanese police stations in (Shalatin), Abu-Ramad, and Hala'ib. They killed two and wounded seven of the Abu-Ramad police personnel. The martyrs of the police force are 1st Lieutenant Police Mahmud Layram Salatin and police constable Mutawakkil Abdullah. The statement said: This confirms that the policy of Husni Mubarak's regime aims at consolidating the state of occupation by mobilizing ferocious military forces complete with

their motorized units and equipment to confront the Sudanese police force, which is limited in numbers and equipment.

The statement affirmed the Sudanese people's legitimate right to their territory, Hala'ib, and that they will not relinquish a single inch of their soil in defiance of every false God and tyrant. [passage omitted]

State Minister Atabani on Current Circumstances

Calls Egypt Threat to Country

EA3006125095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1014 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 30 Jun (SUNA) — State minister at the Foreign Ministry Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani has spoken to [word indistinct] Arab ambassadors to Khartoum on the Egyptian [word indistinct] allegations accusing Sudan of involvement in the assassination attempt against President Mubarak.

Dr. Salah al-Din has reviewed the [words indistinct] of conspiracies have been woven against the Sudan which initially started with putting Sudan on [the] list of countries allegedly accused of harbouring terrorism. The Egyptian regime which have become a threat to Sudan, has incessantly [words indistinct] (?of) trying to escalate the tension between the two countries, he added.

Discusses Tension With Egypt

NC0307102695 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
30 Jun 95 pp 1, 15

[Telephone interview with Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, minister of state for foreign affairs, in Sudan, by unidentified AL-SAFIR correspondent in Lebanon on 29 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SAFIR] What is Khartoum's picture of the current situation between Sudan and Egypt?

[Atabani] Things are very bad because of the Egyptian president's behavior. He started leveling accusations against Sudan without the file on the investigation into the incident and immediately after returning from Addis Ababa, that is, two hours after the incident. The country in which the incident took place issued no statement and did not say Sudan is involved. There is no information initially pointing to Sudan's involvement. Had Sudan wanted to do something, it would not have done it in this way, because it is a very embarrassing operation at a conference of heads of state. But the Egyptian president did not investigate and did not even gather preliminary information on which to build his evidence.

On Tuesday [27 June] night, the Egyptian forces launched a treacherous attack on a thinly manned police post, killing a lieutenant and a soldier. This is not the first time. In 1992 the Egyptian forces attacked a police post and killed two soldiers.

In his speeches the Egyptian president claimed he could invade Sudan in 10 days. He gathered mercenaries from the Sudanese living in Cairo or the so-called opposition and addressed a message to the Sudanese people urging them to change things by force. All the initiatives for preparations and attack have come from the other side.

[AL-SAFIR] What turn do you expect to see the crisis take?

[Atabani] Given Husni Mubarak's threats, we expect anything, including the invasion of Sudan. But I stress that we are prepared for this. If he thinks of such a thing, he will pay a high price. But we cannot belittle his threats. We must be prepared.

[AL-SAFIR] How can you be prepared?

[Atabani] We are prepared through an army that is mobilized with the spirit of jihad and that is highly trained. You know that our popular defense program in Sudan has mobilized very large units of the army. Any Egyptian attack on Sudan will result in a big massacre for the invading army. I tell you this.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you believe the crisis will reach this level?

[Atabani] Given the Egyptian president's mentality, I do not exclude anything, because he is behaving rashly. He is clearly in a state of delirium after the shock he received in Addis Ababa. He is behaving illogically and irrationally. We as politicians and as leaders in this country cannot exclude any possibility.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this mean the battle for Hala'ib has begun?

[Atabani] We believe there is a great possibility of this. We will take the diplomatic measures usually taken in such cases.

[AL-SAFIR] The Egyptian president accused a Sudanese national of perpetrating the assassination attempt. What is your reply?

[Atabani] The Egyptian president started leveling accusations two hours after the incident. The Egyptian president does not have the file on the incident. The Ethiopian Government has this file. Some Sudanese live in Cairo. The Egyptian president can accuse anyone but he lacks proof. The Ethiopian Government is conducting the investigation. Anyhow, the Egyptian president

has accustomed us to lies in his statements. We do not discount these accusations but he lacks the proof. [previous sentence as published]

[AL-SAFIR] What is your analysis of events in Addis Ababa?

[Atabani] Our analysis is that this is not detached from the internal crisis of the Egyptian regime. There is a war going on between groups and sections of the Egyptian people and the Egyptian Government.

Sudan has no connection with this issue. This is a historic tradition in Egyptian politics. Political violence in Egypt is an old thing. How did Mubarak reach power? He arrived after the assassination of his predecessor, al-Sadat. Before al-Sadat there was an attempt to assassinate 'Abd-al-Nasir. Before that there was an attempt to assassinate Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hadi. Al-Nuqrashi Pasha was assassinated. This is a tradition in which Sudan has no part. What happened is an Egyptian internal problem in which Sudan has no part.

[AL-SAFIR] But Egypt always accuses Sudan of sheltering Egyptian Islamists, who are responsible for carrying out the operation.

[Atabani] This is something anyone could say, but it needs proof. Let me say something else. The Egyptians are talking about Israeli weapons entering Egypt. Why did the Egyptian authorities not accuse Israel, Egypt's number one historic enemy? Sudan is targeted because of its policy, which is independent of the policy of the Egyptian Government.

[AL-SAFIR] In your opinion, what is behind the timing of the crisis now?

[Atabani] The Egyptian regime jumps at such opportunities. Now it has the opportunity with the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president in Ethiopia. We have regretted this incident and condemned this method to settle differences, but this is an internal affair. The Egyptian authorities are killing the Egyptian people daily on mere suspicion. You hear Egyptian reports daily talking about the murder of two, three, and five people on mere suspicion of belonging to the Islamists. So if an internal battle is taking place in Egypt on such a level, why should we be held accountable for it?

[AL-SAFIR] The Egyptian Government has announced that it will expel Sudanese policemen from Hala'ib. What would be your reaction if it did so?

[Atabani] Once this step is taken we will determine our replies.

[AL-SAFIR] Would you consider that step a declaration of war?

[Atabani] We do not want to jump ahead of events. If this happens we will determine the response.

[AL-SAFIR] How do you assess Ethiopia's role in this crisis?

[Atabani] Ethiopia is a friendly and extremely respectable state. So far its conduct has been civilized and cannot be compared with that of the Egyptian president. Ethiopia did not rush to make accusations. We know investigations are under way in Ethiopia to uncover the assassination attempt and we have confidence in the wisdom of the Ethiopian leadership and the neutrality of its investigations. We are waiting for these investigations to reveal the falsehood of the Egyptian president's accusations.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this mean you will accept any result from the Ethiopian investigations?

[Atabani] We fully trust the wisdom, impartiality, and neutrality of the Ethiopian leadership, but I do not want to make early judgments before the investigation results are known.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the role played by the United States in this crisis?

[Atabani] The United States is looking for a skirmish with Sudan. A meeting held recently in Sudan was attended by the U.S. ambassador. It was a meeting of mercenaries who are carrying out sabotage operations against Sudan. It was also attended by the Israeli ambassador. We cannot specify the U.S. role in this crisis, but this is its general policy in the region.

[AL-SAFIR] Why did Mubarak try to accuse Hasan al-Turabi personally in the attempt?

[Atabani] Mubarak has a problem with the Islamic tide in Egypt, which is a prevailing tide. If you follow the elections that take place there you will find that the Islamic tide is a prevailing one. In the syndicates the regime had to forge the elections and fabricate new laws. In the press it had to do the same thing. Mubarak's problem is with his own people. The Egyptian people are religious by nature and the Islamic tendency is prevailing among them. This is why Mubarak makes accusations against al-Turabi, who is an Islamic symbol. In this he is in agreement with the Western policy in the region, which targets the Islamic awakening in the world. He is the pawn of Western policy in the region. So he hastens to accuse al-Turabi, whom we all know to be a thinker who never claimed to be planning the overthrow of a regime by force and who does not have militias, as is claimed. Those who know Sudan know these facts.

[AL-SAFIR] Is there any Arab mediation to tone down the crisis?

[Atabani] No, there is not.

Claims Egyptian Attacks in Hala'ib

NC0207063795 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the Egyptian campaign against his country is nothing new. He said that Egypt has attacked Sudan in the Hala'ib area. The Sudanese minister stressed that his country has not massed troops on its northern borders. Sudan, however, is considering Egypt's threats very seriously.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, the Sudanese minister said that Egyptian forces are besieging a Sudanese unit in the Hala'ib area. He declared that the situation between the two countries projects danger because of the Egyptian regime's threats. However, Sudan welcomes any efforts at mediation to curb the deterioration of the situation, provided that the killing of the Sudanese policemen is discussed.

The Sudanese minister noted that Egypt's onslaught is not confined to Sudan alone, it also targets all Muslims and Arabs. He said the whole region is threatened, not just Egypt and Sudan.

Briefs Foreign Envoys on Egyptian Ties

EA0207201395 *Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 2 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The state minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, met separately with the French, Russian, UK, and Chinese ambassadors in Khartoum, and acquainted them on the current developments in the Sudanese-Egyptian relations, which followed the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Dr. Salah al-Din Atabani, meanwhile, communicated to the ambassadors Sudan's disintention to escalate its dispute with Egypt politically and economically, affirming that Sudan is ready to defend its territories by all means.

He pointed to the risks resulting from Egyptian regime's escalation of the situation, indicating that this escalation would lead to a negative impact on peace and security at the regional and international levels. Dr. Salah al-Din called on the member states in the Security Council to shoulder up their responsibility for stopping the Egyptian aggression against Sudan.

Official: Egypt Seeks To Use Force, Not Dialogue

JN0207094495 *Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jul 95 p 20*

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Mahdi Ibrahim, minister of state for presidential affairs in Sudan, has said that Sudan seeks to settle differences with Egypt through dialogue and peaceful means. He said that this is a genuine Sudanese approach, but the other side is the one which seeks to use force.

In a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y, the minister added: Sudan considers the shedding of any drop of blood in either country a sinful act. However, Egypt insists on escalation. The Egyptian forces have killed two people and wounded several others, and disarmed more than 70 policemen and expelled them from Hala'ib.

The Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs said he hoped that confrontations would not take place in which Sudanese or Egyptians would fall victim. He stressed that the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are one people.

Asked about Arab initiatives to narrow the gap and avoid the expected confrontation between Egypt and Sudan, the Sudanese minister said: There have been no Arab initiatives so far. This issue is left for the Arab brothers.

The Sudanese official denied that Sudan was involved in an attempt to assassinate President Mubarak. He pointed out that the Sudanese national who rented the apartment from which the operation was launched had left it a year before the incident [the assassination attempt].

Ibrahim denied that Sudan smuggled weapons to the Egyptian Islamic groups. He said that Sudan has nothing to do with the smuggling of arms or the confrontations which take place in Egypt between the government and the Islamic movement.

Khartoum Complains to UN Over Egyptian 'Aggression'

NC0107182095 *Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 1 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 1 (AFP) — The Khartoum government on Saturday [1 July] complained to the UN Security Council over Egyptian "military escalation and aggression" in the disputed Hala'ib border zone on the Red Sea, the official SUDAN NEWS AGENCY said.

Further on Protest to UN

EA0207125095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has submitted a memorandum to the UN Security Council on the recent Egyptian escalation in the Hala'ib area, as well as on the aggression and provocations against Sudanese police posts in the region. In the memorandum, recently delivered by Sudan's permanent representative at the United Nations to the chairman of the Security Council, the government called on the Security Council to assume its full responsibilities by giving the issue of Egyptian aggression against the Sudanese Hala'ib area the necessary consideration, and by compelling Egypt to withdraw its forces from Hala'ib, abandon its administrative measures in the Sudanese Hala'ib Governorate and the southern Orgeim area, and taking direct steps to settle the dispute by peaceful negotiations under the terms of the agreements between the two countries, in conformity with Article 23, paragraph 2 of the UN Charter. Moreover Egypt should pay compensation to the victims of the Egyptian aggression against Sudanese families in the Hala'ib area.

The Sudanese Government affirmed its full readiness to make every possible effort to solve the dispute peacefully, without resorting to force, in accordance with the UN Charter and the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council. The memorandum pointed out that the Sudanese Government had made all possible efforts to solve the Sudanese-Egyptian dispute over Hala'ib peacefully.

In spite of all that, Egyptian acts of aggression continued through occupation and the imposition of a fait accompli on the Hala'ib Governorate, thus creating a threat to peace and security in that area. Sudan reiterated its firm stand that the Hala'ib Governorate is Sudanese, under Sudanese administration, and inhabited by Sudanese citizens.

The memorandum reviewed the series of Egyptian acts of aggression against Hala'ib, which began on 27 June with attacks on Sudanese police posts, and then on the coastal area north of Hala'ib, where the Egyptian Forces killed a Sudanese policeman and wounded another, and forced the remaining policemen to withdraw to Hala'ib town, which is now under Egyptian control.

United Arab Emirates

Police Deny Reports of Car Bomb Near Church

JN3006201395 *Manama WAKH in Arabic*
1910 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dubayy, 30 Jun (WAKH) — A responsible source in the Dubayy Police Department in the United Arab Emirates has denied reports by REUTERS that a booby-trapped car exploded near St. Mary's Church in Dubayy.

The Emirates News Agency cited the source as saying that at 0500 [0100 GMT] today, a speeding car crashed into the church wall and went up in flames due to the impact.

The source demanded accuracy in the dissemination of news and that news be verified by competent authorities.

Further on Reported Car Explosion

NC3006191195 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1850 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dubayy, 30 Jun (MENA) — A responsible source in Dubai Emirate in the United Arab Emirates has denied a Western news agency report that a car bomb exploded near the Virgin Mary Church.

In a statement tonight, the source said that at 0500 today a speeding car crashed into the church wall and exploded in flames.

The source called on news agencies to check their stories and verify them with the authorities concerned.

[In its report on the incident, Paris AFP in English at 1502 GMT on 30 June adds the following: "An unidentified attacker drove a car into the covered forecourt of a Roman Catholic church in Dubai on Friday [30 June] and set it alight, fire fighters said.

"The fire caused slight damage to the roof of the forecourt in front of the church and the attacker escaped, a member of the Dubai fire brigade said. The iron door of the church had been forced by tools.

"There was no apparent motive for the attack, the first on St Mary's Church since it was founded in the 1960s. The church has a large Asian congregation.

["Dubai, like the other six members of the United Arab Emirates, is known for its religious toleration. The majority of the one million inhabitants in the Muslim emirate are Asian expatriates."]

Yemen

Security Forces Foil Plane Hijacking at Sanaa Airport

JN0207174395 *Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic* 1700 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security forces at the Sanaa International Airport this morning foiled an attempt to hijack an Ethiopian plane.

This was announced to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', by a responsible source at the Interior Ministry. The source said that at 0900 today, the security forces at the Sanaa International Airport foiled the attempt when (Mastikin Bayu), aged 28 years, tried to bring on board a hand grenade put inside a blender. The source added: The security forces discovered the bomb minutes before the plane took off for Addis Ababa. The flight number was 664.

The source also pointed out that after he was arrested and questioned, the man said that he intended to take the plane to the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Investigations are still under way to discover the motives for this attempt.

Source Denies Mubarak Assailant Carried Yemeni Passport

NC0107053895 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2145 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 30 Jun (MENA) — A responsible source in the Yemeni Foreign Ministry has recently denied that Siraj Muhammad Siraj, who is accused of perpetrating the attack on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, carried a Yemeni passport.

The source explained that Yemeni Interior Ministry officials launched an extensive investigation into this issue. They have determined beyond doubt that Yemeni authorities have not issued a passport under this name.

UN Experts Arrive in Baghdad on Germ Warfare Mission

NC3006101795 Paris AFP in English
0929 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, June 30 (AFP) — UN disarmament experts headed for Baghdad on Friday [30 June] on a mission to answer lingering questions about Iraq's germ warfare programme.

The delegation is headed by Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission on disarmament Iraq (UNSCOM), and includes three experts in biological weapons.

Their three-day mission is aimed at persuading Iraq to account for 17 tonnes of missing biological material imported before the 1991 Gulf war which could be used for germ warfare.

Iraq said Sunday it would clear up international concerns about its germ warfare potential if the United Nations gave Baghdad a clean bill of health on other weapons programmes. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Rolf Ekeus

JN3006173195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1724 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus here today.

Ekeus arrived in Baghdad earlier today on a three-day visit to Iraq.

Oil Minister Holds Talks With Ekeus

JN3006191595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1853 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil, met this evening with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Security Council Special Commission.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission.

AFP Details 'Fresh Talks'

NC0107171795 Paris AFP in English
1635 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 1 (AFP) — UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus held fresh talks with Iraqi officials on Saturday [1 July] aiming to fill in gaps on Baghdad's germ warfare programme that stand in the way of lifting a UN oil embargo.

Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on disarmament Iraq (UNSCOM), met General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, the newly-appointed oil minister and main Iraqi negotiator on disarmament, for a second time since he arrived here on Friday.

His six-member UN delegation included three experts in biological weapons was expected to stay three days, after flying in from UNSCOM's rear base in Manama. It is the second Ekeus visit to Baghdad in the last month.

Their mission is aimed at persuading Iraq to account for 17 tonnes of missing biological material imported before the 1991 Gulf War which could be used for germ warfare.

Ekeus was expected to meet Rashid again on Sunday as well as Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is responsible for negotiations with the United Nations, Tim Trevan, a UN spokesman, said.

He added that UN weapons experts would meet their Iraqi counterparts later.

Iraq said Sunday it would clear up international concerns about its germ warfare potential if the United Nations gave Baghdad a clean bill of health on other weapons programmes.

After his last visit to Baghdad at the end of May, Ekeus told the UN Security Council that Iraq's failure to disclose germ warfare details was the only significant obstacle to lifting the oil embargo.

Crippling UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Security Council, which convenes every 60 days to review the sanctions, holds its next meeting in mid-July.

Rashid, has been the main negotiator with UNSCOM as the head of Iraq's military industrialisation organisation, which was tasked with converting the country's military industry to civilian uses after the 1991 Gulf war.

He was named to the post of oil minister on Friday, replacing Safa' Hadi Jawad, who became advisor to President Saddam Husayn's office. The official news agency INA gave no explanation for the move.

The military industrialisation organisation is directly responsible to Saddam Husayn. General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's son-in-law and industry minister, was named as its new director on Friday.

Ekeus Given 'New Details'

NC0207073295 Paris AFP in English
0726 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 2 (AFP) — Iraq has given new details about its germ warfare program,

UN disarmament envoy Rolf Ekeus said Sunday [2 July].

"Iraq presented to us new information concerning biological arms," Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq, told reporters here. "We will assess that and report to the (UN) Security Council. We have agreed to continue intensive talks."

'Positive' Talks Conclude, Ekeus Departs

JN0207170895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1645 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA) — UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus today left Baghdad following a three-day visit to Baghdad.

Ekeus held talks with Iraqi officials which he described as constructive and positive. These talks focused on the biological research program.

Ekeus said the Iraqi Government provided the UN Special Commission with new information on this program. He said: We will assess these information and present a report on them to the UN Security Council.

Ekeus added: We agreed with the Iraqis to continue the intensive work to remove all the obstacles in that regard.

IAEA Spokesman Cited on Iraq's Nuclear Material
NC2906153995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People
in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] has said that it is not in the business of issuing reports to say that Iraq is free of nuclear material. This is linked to the Iraqi regime's other weapons programs, the agency said.

IAEA spokesman Dr. Hans (Meyer) told our radio that despite the progress toward disclosing the regime's arms programs, doubts remain because other hidden material, weapons, or programs may be discovered. The spokesman recalled that an Iraqi expert, who disappeared in Athens early this year, mentioned a secret program to produce nuclear weapons material by using a computer, which forced the IAEA to intensify its inspections in Iraq.

On the regime's recent threats to link providing information on germ weapons to closing the file on the chemical and nuclear weapons, Dr. (Meyer) said that the Baghdad regime must first give up all its information so that the United Nations can allow the export of oil, medicine, and food to help the suffering people. The spokesman concluded that by saying that [Rolf] Ekeus' commission is not in a hurry because the Security Council gave it broad authorization and trusted it to discover all the

weapons and programs in Iraq that the regime may use to threaten the nations of the region once again.

Paper Accuses Ekeus of 'Carrying Out CIA Orders'

JN3006163495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
26 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by Malik Mansur: "The Ekeus We Know"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In light of developments over the past five years, the Iraqis are now very much familiar with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Security Council's Sanctions Committee. The Iraqis now know Rolf Ekeus just as they know all details of their daily life. Ekeus has been exposed to the Iraqi people more than ever before, especially since he has used up all his pretexts and had to reveal his final cards. Therefore, the doubts and questions of yesterday are certainties today.

The ordinary citizen can today give a final judgment that suits Ekeus and his actions. For five years, Ekeus has been involved in a game of war and starvation against the entire Iraqi population, taking advantage of the fact that he belongs to a neutral state, Sweden, and using this as a cover to play his double game. On the one hand, this game depends on submission to the will of Washington and carrying out its orders to maintain the embargo. On the other, the game depends on Ekeus's attempt to look neutral through practicing deception and playing with words to hide the substantive facts that relate to Iraq's positive cooperation with the United Nations and its responsible implementation of UN resolutions, despite the fact that these resolutions conflict with the principles and rules of international law.

Today and after five years of procrastination, false promises, play with words, and attempts to fabricate crises, Ekeus has lost any measure of credibility. The only evidence to prove his alleged neutrality is the fact that he is a citizen of a state that follows a neutral official foreign policy.

No one denies that Ekeus is a Swedish citizen. But is this enough to prove that he is not possibly associated with the Central Intelligence Agency, for example, or other U.S. establishments? Does the fact that he is from Sweden mean that he cannot be bribed and that he cannot use his position in the international organization to serve the United States?

This is why Ekeus's neutrality is not discussed now in Iraq and many other nations and public opinion quarters. Instead, the discussion revolves around the fact that Ekeus has submitted to the U.S. will and is carrying out CIA orders. These quarters are talking about how Ekeus is using his own deceptive methods to turn the fabricated information and claims given to him by the

CIA into doubts and almost certain information and how he builds on this information practical stands which he includes in his reports to the Security Council.

What lends credibility to the strong doubts about the possibility of Ekeus' involvement and coordination with U.S. circles is the fact that his accusations and suspicions — in the statements he makes and the reports he submits to the Security Council during the review sessions — coincide with the media campaigns and psychological warfare launched by U.S. and Western media agencies and their propagation of lies and fabrications about the domestic situation in Iraq. In addition, Ekeus's activities in general show that he is on the same U.S. wavelength. His maneuvers contribute to the formulation of the components of any crisis whenever Iraq re-activates its diplomatic activity to convince the Security Council members of its legal rights and of the Security Council's commitments toward lifting the embargo.

Anyone who has observed the way in which Ekeus has handled the Security Council's relations with Iraq over the past five years must have seen Ekeus's maneuvering and prevaricating techniques. Ekeus has deliberately avoided giving a specific and definitive opinion to raise doubts about Iraq's positive and serious co-operation with the Security Council and the Sanctions Committee, especially regarding Iraq's fulfillment of all its obligations under Resolution 687 and its fulfillment of the paragraphs of Section C. Ekeus has continued to play a game of opening closed files under flimsy pretexts each time the Security Council is about to review the sanctions. Anyone who has observed how Ekeus has been handling the Iraqi affair will find that there is a gross violation of all legal, technical, political, and moral facts. Therefore, no one can talk about Ekeus's neutrality. Ekeus's integrity must be doubted and questioned.

We say this today based on a series of facts and developments which are on the official record. We still remember a large number of contradictory statements. Therefore, the Iraqis will not be surprised when the biggest scandal of this age is revealed and someone leaks information that the CIA and Ekeus have played a role in maintaining the embargo. It is not improbable that the CIA will reveal a part of Ekeus's involvement and his agreement to be a tool to perpetuate the dirty war that seeks to destroy Iraq and subject 10 million Iraqi people to starvation and genocide.

Ekeus is trying — through suspicions and false and misleading information given to him by the CIA — to hide the major facts on the ground and to fault Iraq's implementation of Paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of Section C of Resolution 687 and the implementation of monitoring

as stipulated by Resolution 715. Through these very doubts and suspicions, Ekeus resorts to opening and reviewing closed files so that the Security Council may think that Iraq still has to comply with certain requirements whose files were closed a long time ago by Ekeus himself.

The Iraqis have now realized this fact. They are witnessing new chapters of the U.S. conspiracy against our country and people under very flimsy pretexts that have lost their credibility. The Iraqi people no longer care about the suspicions and doubts which Ekeus tries to raise from time to time. Nor do they care about any illusion which Ekeus tries to market to render the Iraqis apathetic and weaken their strong will to hold fast and make use of all available means to promote their own capabilities. Faith and determination to pursue a path of jihad and reconstruction until the last phase of success is achieved constitute the appropriate Iraqi reply.

Foreign Minister Says Qatari Change 'Domestic Affair'

*JN2906144695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 29 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA) — Answering a question by the Iraqi News Agency today on why Iraq has so far not announced its position on the change that took place in the State of Qatar, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: The Iraqi Government deems the change a domestic affair. Iraq wishes the State of Qatar and its Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani progress and success in serving the interests of the Arab nation and the fraternal Qatari people.

The foreign minister added: Iraq and Qatar share fraternal ties. We take pride in these ties. It is worth mentioning that His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah has played a major role in establishing good relations between Iraq and Qatar over the past years.

Intelligence Chief Said Visiting Sudan for Coordination

*NC0207155395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People
in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mani' Rafid al-Takriti, chief of Saddam Husayn's intelligence, recently visited the Sudanese capital heading a delegation of employees and officials of the ruling regime's security departments.

Arab diplomatic sources noted that the objective of the visit, which took place in great secrecy, was to coordinate among the security organs in Iraq and Sudan, cooperate jointly in external sabotage operations, and

draw up plans for infiltration attempts for Arab and foreign elements to execute assassinations and sabotage activities in a number of Arab and foreign countries. The sources affirmed that 'Abd-al-Samad al-Qaysi, the ambassador of Saddam's regime in Sudan who is also a ranking official in the regime's intelligence, has been entrusted with the task of preparing for Mani' al-Takriti's visit and the security delegation accompanying him. The results of these preparations were the meetings the delegation held with the Sudanese officials during the visit, which lasted four days.

Egypt's 'Tendentious Campaign' Against Sudan Viewed

JN0207113195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over the 25th session of the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers discussed topics on its agenda. It decided that the Military Industrialization Organization will continue to build the Badush Dam, north of Mosul. The Council also approved a proposal by the Ministry of Irrigation to encourage investors, both companies and individuals, to build small dams in the desert and rural areas and to use the lakes behind them to farm fish. The land surrounding the new dams will be leased for agricultural purposes under long-term contracts.

The Council also discussed the ruling Egyptian regime's tendentious campaign against Sudan.

A spokesman for the Council of Ministers stated the following:

We have followed with interest and concern the reports on the military buildup by the ruling regime in Egypt against Sudan. Evidently, the aim of this buildup is to create a fabricated crisis and stir a political and propaganda clamor under unfounded slogans and pretexts to provide a cover for the collusion with foreign powers against the Sudanese people.

These practices run contrary to the ties of brotherhood and joint destiny between the fraternal peoples of Egypt and Sudan and their supreme values and interests. Just like other sons of the Arab nation in all Arab countries, they believe in supreme Arab values and interests. They demand cooperation and solidarity in confronting the foreign dangers and challenges posed to the Arab nation to maintain their independence and dignity and build their common future.

Based on this undisputable fact, we call for putting out the fire of sedition and respecting the supreme interests of the peoples of Egypt and Sudan. We appeal to the

fraternal Egyptian people not to allow any ruler to use Egypt's capabilities as a heavy stick against the Arab nation.

Mubarak Urged To Stop 'Escalation' Against Sudan

JN0207092795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0608 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the escalation of the situation with Sudan by the head of the Egyptian regime does not serve Egypt's interests and harms Sudan and its people.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article published today that escalation serves the longstanding foreign conspiratorial schemes aimed to harm Sudan and its Arabism and stability.

The paper adds: Those conspiratorial schemes, taking various aggressive forms, propagated the separation of the south and at the same time imposed on the Sudanese an unjust blockade which can be neither approved by any national conscience nor accepted by any honest neighbors with common history and joint destiny.

The paper says that such escalation, willingly spearheaded by Mubarak, will only result in widening the gap between Egypt and Sudan and in further bloodshed and victims among the brethren in the two neighborly countries.

The paper says that this situation will continue if the crazy provocation and threats of aggression continue, adding that the Sudanese rightfully refuse to remain indifferent toward such a situation.

The paper adds: To stop having Cairo involved in serving colonialist schemes and anti-Arab policies is an urgent task of which the Egyptian regime and its head must be aware. This would serve as a first step toward Cairo's return to its pioneering pan-Arab fold and the restoration of its required role in healing the rift and extending bridges of confidence and love among the children of Arabism.

The paper asks: What good does it do the Egyptian regime to insist on being a tool or a sponsor of the suspicious attempts to commit aggressions against the Arabs according to the plans of the U.S. Administration and its intelligence services?

Concluding its article, the paper urges the head of the Egyptian regime to respond to the dictates of his national and pan-Arab duty.

AL-'IRAQ Reports Mubarak Assassination Attempt
JN0207195395 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
27 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[News report: "An Attempt To Assassinate The Egyptian President In Addis Ababa Forces Him To Flee Back To Cairo; The Mujahidin Will Pound The Last Nail In Mubarak's Coffin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, INA — Husni Mubarak, the head of the Egyptian regime, was yesterday the target of an assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, where he was scheduled to participate in the Organization of African Unity [OAU] summit.

Egyptian television announced that several shots were fired on Husni Mubarak's car in Addis Ababa and that the president's guards replied to the sources of fire, killing two of the assailants.

Egyptian television interrupted its programs to report the incident, confirming that Mubarak cut short his visit and decided to return to Cairo.

The BBC television correspondent in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, said that Mubarak was on his way to the building where the summit was being held when an armed man in a Land Cruiser intercepted Husni Mubarak's motorcade and opened fire on the car which quickly turned and went back to the airport while the exchange of fire continued.

In a later development, the AFP cited a diplomat at the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa — who refused to be identified — as saying that Husni Mubarak immediately left the Ethiopian capital to return back to Cairo.

The German news agency said six gunmen opened fire at the bullet-proof limousine in which the head of the Egyptian regime was traveling. Three people were killed in the exchange of fire between the Ethiopian police and Mubarak's bodyguards on the one hand and the assailants on the other.

BBC television cited its correspondent in Addis Ababa as saying that the shoot-out occurred near the Palestinian Embassy in Addis Ababa. However, it was not clear where the bullets came from, and the exchange of fire may have occurred near the embassy by chance. The BBC said that only one car intercepted the motorcade and three people were killed, two by the Egyptian bodyguards and the third by an Ethiopian man who opened fire at the assailant. It also said that a number of the Egyptian president's bodyguards were injured, but none was killed.

AFP cites diplomats in Addis Ababa as saying that the Palestinian representative to Ethiopia was wounded yesterday during the assassination attempt that targeted

Husni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital. The agency added that the Palestinian representative — whom the agency did not name — was wounded in the leg by a stray bullet during the assassination attempt which took place near the Palestinian Embassy in Addis Ababa.

AFP said that several of Mubarak's guards were also wounded during the exchange of fire which took place when Mubarak's motorcade stopped because a small van was blocking the road from the airport to the place where the OAU summit was being held.

The BBC correspondent in Addis Ababa said that the news of the assassination attempt against Husni Mubarak quickly spread among the heads of states and delegations of the countries which are attending the OAU summit. He said that security measures adopted in Addis Ababa had been very stringent over the past three days. That is why it was difficult to visualize such an attack. The BBC correspondent noted that the incident will embarrass the Ethiopian Government, adding that nobody has claimed responsibility for the incident. However, the Egyptian mujahidin, who are waging a war against the Egyptian Government, are suspected of carrying out the attack. An Egyptian mujahidin faction welcomed the assassination attempt against Husni Mubarak, the president of the Egyptian regime, in the Ethiopian capital. REUTERS cites a statement by the Egyptian mujahidin as saying that the mujahidin welcome this operation. The statement also said: If Mubarak escaped this time, he will not escape the next time because the vanguards of the mujahidin will drive the last nail in his coffin. The spokesman, who read the statement over the telephone, said will be able to take revenge against Husni Mubarak, the head of the Egyptian regime.

REUTERS said that the Egyptian officials admitted that 12 bullets fired by AK-47 guns hit the armored car which the Egyptians had brought with them from Egypt, adding that the bullets did not penetrate the armored car. The sources said that had the president of the Egyptian regime been in an official Ethiopian vehicle he would have died.

After immediately returning to Egypt following the assassination attempt, Mubarak admitted that one of the bullets had almost penetrated through the glass of the car.

Mubarak's predecessor was assassinated at the hands of the Islamic Jihad Organization in November 1981 after signing the Camp David accords.

The Ethiopian news agency said that two of the assailants and two Ethiopian policemen were killed and an Ethiopian citizen was wounded in the assassination

attempt against the head of the Egyptian regime. Citing Ethiopian security sources, the agency said that the assassination attempt was carried out by nine armed men whose identities still remain unknown and who succeeded in escaping after carrying out the operation.

Some African leaders, who took part in the opening of the OAU summit, decided to leave Addis Ababa immediately following the opening ceremony. In a statement to the press following his return to Cairo, Egyptian President Mubarak said that he is not sure about the nationality of the assailants. He added: I saw some of them sitting on the roofs, some came from other places, and others were walking next to the motorcade from where they attacked us with their weapons. Bullets penetrated the glass of my car, he said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Reports Attack

JN0207194795 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 27 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[News Report: "This Is How Courageous People Remain Steadfast; Husni Mubarak Escapes to Cairo After Assassination Attempt on His Life in Addis Ababa"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa—AL-JUMHURIYAH monitoring—Husni Mubarak, president of the Egyptian regime, ran away scared from Ethiopia and returned to Egypt following an attempt to assassinate him.

A correspondent for the Egyptian Radio Corporation in Addis Ababa said that six armed men opened fire at Husni Mubarak's motorcade while he was on his way under tight security from Addis Ababa Airport to take part in the Organization of African Unity conference.

Reporters from Addis Ababa say that the Egyptian president's car was fired upon as it was passing by the Palestinian mission's building on Africa Street. Reports noted that Mubarak was not hurt, while two of the attackers were killed. On its part, CNN cited Ethiopian security officials as saying that six armed men opened fire at the motorcade of Husni Mubarak, who was on his way from the airport to attend the OAU conference. Those officials said that Ethiopian security forces responded to the shooting and killed three armed men. Following the incident, Husni Mubarak returned to the airport and went back to Egypt. On his part, a BBC correspondent said that Ethiopian officials allowed him to see the grenade launchers, the weapons, and the ammunition which were used in the attempt. He noted that the weapons and ammunition were found in a house near the scene of the incident after it was rented by Egyptian citizens four days ago.

The president of the Egyptian regime held a news conference immediately after his arrival at Cairo Airport, fleeing from Ethiopia. He looked scared and confused when he said: Bullets hit the bullet-proof glass of the limousine I was riding in. I saw some of them on rooftops!! Others came from other places. He added: I also saw some who were walking near the motorcade vehicles. They attacked us with their weapons and the bullets penetrated my car's glass.

In his statement, Mubarak noted that the Ethiopians put the Egyptian bodyguards in one car, which is something suspicious, as he put it! It is noteworthy that tight security always surrounds Husni, whether he is inside or outside his country. This was noticed during his visit to Libya three years ago. In this regard, the BBC said that Husni Mubarak and his entourage do not forget that Mubarak's predecessor Anwar al-Sadat was assassinated in 1981. Moreover, Mubarak always remembers that he has been the target of many assassination attempts during the past few years.

Iran Urged To Back Goodwill Statements With 'Actions'

JN0107123795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1156 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA) — AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged the leaders of Iran to prove their goodwill statements by actions. In an article today, the newspaper says such a step to improve Iraqi-Iranian relations would be most useful in facing common challenges.

The paper notes that Mahdi Agha Ja'fari, representative of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, participated in a symposium on the United Nations organized by the AL-JUMHURIYAH Studies Center last week. This participation is a positive step. The continuation of the useful and positive practical dialogue is also a positive step. But what is more important is to translate these steps into positive actions.

Commenting on a statement made by the Iranian diplomat at the symposium about the existence of Iranian POW's in Iraq and linking the return of warplanes and civilian aircraft which Iraq had deposited in Iran before the 30-state aggression, the paper says: The International Committee of the Red Cross has repeatedly confirmed that all Iranian POW's returned to their country and that Iraq does not hold any Iranian prisoners.

The paper reminds the leadership in Tehran that the Iranian authorities discovered thousands of Iranian bodies during the war. Until recently, Iran had considered those people as prisoners.

Regarding the Iranian authorities' linkage between returning the Iraqi aircraft and the activities of the UN Sanctions Committee, the paper says that the Sanctions Committee is authorized to look into trade matters only. Depositing the Iraqi aircraft in Iran was a private matter because it was done according to a prior agreement. The only thing that can be deemed a violation of the Sanctions Committee's instructions is the use of these aircraft in air transport outside Iraq.

'Amir Muhammad Rashid Appointed Oil Minister

JN3006093395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0920 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA) — Republican decrees were issued here today relieving Safa' Hadi Jawad from his post as oil minister and appointing him adviser at the Presidency with the rank and salary of a minister; appointing Lieutenant General Eng. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, adviser at the Presidency [and current director of the Military Industrialization Organization — MIO] as oil minister; and appointing Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the minister of industry and minerals [and current supervisor of the MIO], as the MIO director in addition to his ministerial post.

Officials, Citizens Arrested; Officers Pensioned Off

NC3006152795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam's authorities have arrested former Ba'th party officials and other officials from the al-Dulaym tribes and al-Anbar Governorate.

Confirmed reports indicate that among those arrested last week are Nuri Faysal Shahir, a member of the so-called Regional Command [of the Ba'th Party] who comes from the city of Hadithah; retired Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hadi Salih, a former commander in the Republican Guard; a secretary from the Bar Association in [words indistinct]; and hundreds of citizens. They were accused of sympathizing with the al-Ramadi and Abu Ghurayb uprising and opposing tyrant Saddam's regime.

The same reports say the wife, three daughters, and 76-year-old mother of citizen Fawzi Shuja' al-Dulaymi have been detained and are being held hostage until al-Dulaymi is handed over to the authorities of the ruling regime.

Following the dismissal of Saddam's half-brother, Watban Ibrahim Hasan, as interior minister and the appointment of Muhammad 'Abd-al-Razzaq in his place, the regime has issued new orders for the arrest of officers

from the internal security forces and the dismissal of others.

Sources close to the regime's Interior Ministry added that these measures included supporters and friends of dismissed minister Watban. The sources mentioned the names of five officers who have been pensioned off. They are: Police Colonel Muhammad Kazim Shanshal, Police Colonel Saddam 'Umar, Police Colonel Khdayyir 'Awwad Za'lan, Police Colonel Ibrahim Muhammad Salman, and Captain Jabir Salah Fu'ad.

These officers were accused of failing to control the extraordinary security conditions in Baghdad.

300 Officers, Tribal Elders Reportedly Executed

NC3006155095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a reliable source in Karkuk, KURDISTAN NWAY reports today that the bloody regime recently arrested 300 officers, soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and elders from the al-Dulaymi tribe and executed them in the Dibis area near Karkuk.

The source said the executions followed the al-Dulaymi tribe's uprising in the al-Ramadi Region and the armed military mutiny in the Abu Ghurayb area near Baghdad.

The bloody regime executed 150 soldiers two days after the armed mutiny by the 14th July Armored Battalion in the Abu Ghurayb area.

Further on Execution

LD0207120595 Tehran IRNA in English
1137 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, W. Azarbaijan Prov., July 2, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has executed 300 officers and tribemen in recent days in charges of involvement in anti-government uprising in Ar Ramadi city last month, a radio run by Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has said.

The KDP radio monitored here said on Saturday that earlier some 150 residents of Ar Ramadi had been arrested and executed by the Baghdad regime.

According to the news sources people of Ar Remadi during their recent uprising killed some 200 government officials including security agents of the Ba'ath Party.

Opposition Radio: Police Post in Baghdad Attacked

NC0107162795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arabic weekly AL-ITTIHAD published by the Patriotic Union of

Kurdistan reported in this week's issue that an armed assault was launched on a police post in the center of Baghdad a few days ago. The attack, which was mounted by armed youths, left the police post chief, a number of police officers, non-commissioned officers, and policemen dead or injured. The paper said that the attack was mounted in retaliation for the arrest of a group of youths on various charges [words indistinct].

Opposition Claims Five Killed in al-Ramadi

NC0107162495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Karkuk, the bodies of five members of the 'Aflaqite regime arrived in Karkuk from al-Ramadi wrapped in Iraqi flags on 27 June. Our sources said that these personnel were killed by members of the al-Dulaym tribe. The al-Dulaym tribesmen recently staged an

uprising against the ruling dictatorial authorities in Baghdad.

Opposition Reports Shelling in Chamchamal Region

LD0107105595 Tehran IRNA in English

1048 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, Kordestan Province, July 1, IRNA — Iraqi forces on Friday [30 June] shelled Chamchamal region in northern Iraq, announced a radio run by an opposition Kurdish group on Saturday.

The radio belonging to Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said that two persons were killed and many others wounded in the shelling.

The radio added that the artillery attack of Ba'athist forces lasted for a few hours.

Foreign Minister on 'Failed' Talks With Palestinians

TA0207053795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, "on the way from the Erez checkpoint to the cabinet session in Jerusalem," by correspondents Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Good morning Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] Are you tired and disappointed?

[Peres] I am neither tired nor disappointed.

[Friedman] But was it not your original intention to announce an agreement for the implementation of Palestinian self-administration in the West Bank by this morning?

[Peres] That is true; however, we failed to reach agreement. Since we did not reach agreement we had nothing to announce.

[Friedman] Yasir 'Arafat's statement seems to imply that there is broad disagreement between the parties on a whole series of issues. Is this true?

[Peres] No, I said that until we agreed on everything, we had actually agreed on nothing because this is not a basketball game — we are not scoring points.

[Dan] Can you tell us which major points are....

[Peres, interrupting] No, I do not want to be more specific right now, because the negotiations are still underway and until the talks are over I do not intend to get into details. I can only state that we will make absolutely no concessions on issues relating to security.

[Friedman] The most recently discussed timetable, after having already been modified several times, spoke about holding elections by the end of October, wrapping up the agreement by 1 August, the release of 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in the wake of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from six towns. Is this timetable still valid?

[Peres] This timetable is neither canceled nor approved. It depends on whether or not we achieve agreement. The timetable can only be approved after we reach agreement.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, what is the next step? These talks failed; what now?

[Peres] As far as the Palestinians are concerned, these talks are not over. They proposed that we hold another

meeting within 24 hours. I have to consult with the prime minister and other officials before we give them a reply.

[Dan] When you say that the talks are not over as far as the Palestinians are concerned, is there some finer nuance here? Does this mean that the issue is closed from Israel's viewpoint with the Palestinians having to make the next step?

[Peres] As far as we are concerned there are some issues on which we have no intention of making any concessions. The Palestinians said that they wanted a 24-hour recess, so we agreed.

[Friedman] You noted earlier that the issues Israel would make absolutely no concessions on pertained to the security sphere. Are we talking about the size of the territory that the IDF will vacate?

[Peres] Why should I torture you? I will not discuss any details. We are in the middle of negotiations now, and we will not reveal any details until the negotiations are over.

[Dan] Do you expect to meet 'Arafat again in 24 hours.

[Peres] That is possible.

[Friedman] Did Yasir 'Arafat tell you that there were also plans to assassinate him in Addis Ababa last week?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. 'Arafat and someone else.

[Friedman] Who is the other official?

[Peres] Another Arab leader.

[Friedman] How was this plan foiled?

[Peres] Apparently, the plotters screwed up, and the Egyptian and Ethiopian security forces also did a good job.

[Friedman] What do we detect in your voice? Is it only weariness or also anger?

[Peres] Just weariness.

[Friedman] But you said you were not tired at the beginning of the interview. Perhaps we exhausted you?

[Peres] Maybe.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Details Disagreements

TA0207191095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Mr. Peres, how far are we from an agreement?

[Peres] It is not a question of a physical distance. We should reach an agreement. In the early morning hours today we were close to an agreement, but I saw that it was very difficult for the Palestinians to decide. Among other things, they asked for a recess or postponement of 24 hours.

[Sukenik] What is the main problem delaying the agreement now, in your opinion?

[Peres] From our viewpoint, it is security. In other words, during the eight hours of the meeting we firmly insisted on all necessary security aspects, while their focus was on the need to show their voters some achievement.

[Sukenik] Security means the traffic axes, the minute details involved in safeguarding the axes between the settlements and their villages, is that not so?

[Peres] It is not only the axes, but traffic on them, too. If it were a road only, a road can be marked, but there are arteries and there is traffic, and overall responsibility for security in a considerable part of the area.

[Yavin] Mr. Peres, there is a reference to 17 July now. There is also a reference to a meeting within 48 hours. Where do we stand exactly from the point of view of the negotiations?

[Peres] Look, if we had not set the 1 July date, it is doubtful that we would have reached any agreements. When there is no date or framework, an agreement cannot be reached. Therefore, I am pleased that we set that date. We have not yet determined the next date. My impression is that both the Palestinians and us very much want to end the negotiations this month. A day has not been decided on yet.

Let me explain something. We have three points of reference. One is the evacuation of areas or rather towns so that the Palestinians can hold elections. We undertook to redeploy for the sake of elections. There is another, so-called parallel redeployment [last two words in English] in order to complete the interim agreement, and there is another date which concerns the beginning of the discussion on the permanent arrangement. Our move this time is limited to the elections issue; namely,

we are leaving rural and urban places, hamlets, and the like, so that elections are held in the absence of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The Palestinians naturally want to receive more than this. Therefore, in the current situation, the main point is to allow the 1,200,000 or 1,300,000 Judea and Samaria residents to hold elections, as promised.

[Sukenik] You talk of security. I assume that at least those residents of the narrow coastal strip, of the center of Israel, the residents of 'Afula, Kefar Saba, and elsewhere, ask themselves whether the resulting intermingling of Israelis and Palestinians in hundreds of villages and over 100 settlements is not tantamount to gambling on their security? Is this a solid arrangement?

[Peres] There is no gambling here whatsoever since security is left in IDF's hands.

[Sukenik] Will it be possible to maintain security in such conditions though?

[Peres] What if there is no agreement? We will have a problem then, too. If you look at the Gaza issue, there were many doubts initially; it seemed like a lost case, but gradually the Palestinians did take control of the area and could also guarantee an antiterror war, at least....

[Sukenik, interrupting] But there was a wave of terrorist actions for a long while, of terrorists who came from Gaza....

[Peres, interrupting] This is not serious, and not all came from Gaza. Some did, but some also came from Judea and Samaria, which are under our control, which goes to show that it is very difficult even for us to control the area. Still, there are two important points here. First, the overriding responsibility [last two words in English] for security remains in our hands. Second, there is a Palestinian commitment to maintain order and security in all places under their control.

[Yavin] Mr. Peres, a member of your party, the Kefar Saba mayor, expressed deep concern about the future of those places located five minutes from the border.

[Peres] It is possible to understand the fears. We are aware of this. Still, look at other places in Israel, such as Elat, which is adjacent to al-'Aqabah. Has anything happened there? We have coexisted for 48 years there already.

[Sukenik] There are no Palestinians there though.

[Peres] Are the majority of Jordanians not Palestinians? Are they beings from another planet? You also have the example of Gaza and Ashqelon.

[Yavin] But you cannot guarantee security for the Kefar Saba residents.

[Peres] I cannot guarantee their security when we are in the territories either. I can guarantee more security when there is also peace, when peace becomes a component of security. There is no end to this, as Jewish villages will always be alongside Arab ones. We either conquer or (?evacuate) the entire Middle East. Anywhere we turn we will find ourselves on the border alongside Arabs, and it will be necessary to learn how to live, using wisdom and power.

Interviewed on Security Issues

TA0107140195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Miryam Herschlag, place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Herschlag] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is due in Gaza tonight for a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The two won't be shaking hands, as they had hoped, on an interim agreement for the next stage of Palestinian self-rule. Negotiators have not yet managed to clinch a deal to roll Israeli troops out of Arab population centers in the West Bank, set up security arrangements, and organize Palestinian elections. Foreign Minister Peres prefers not to discuss details of the agreement that will be announced, but I asked him what in general is causing the delay.

[Peres] The principle point is to draw a line between the Israeli responsibility for security and the Palestinian desire to run their own lives. We have to define a line which will be acceptable to the two sides and that will be workable on a daily basis.

[Herschlag] According to an Israel Radio survey, a considerable number, perhaps 8 percent, of Israelis in towns near the Green Line, like Kefar Sava, would leave if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrew from nearby Qalqilyah. Still more have expressed deep fears, at least about being vulnerable to attacks. What can you say to these people and their fears?

[Peres] I know the Israeli people. They have two attitudes: One is toward polls and the other toward realities and decisions. I do not believe that a single person will leave Kefar Sava or a single person will leave 'Afula. It is total nonsense. We have many towns and places where Arabs and Jews are coexisting, living together, like Elat and al-'Aqabah. What's wrong with living in al-'Aqabah, in Elat? Nobody was hurt. When we left Gaza, they said katyushas will fly from Gaza to Ashqelon. Nothing whatsoever happened. We have in Israel itself in many places Arabs and Israelis living together and nothing is happening. Who said that it must

happen? I do believe that peace is an addition to the security of the people, not a reduction of it.

[Herschlag] That is perhaps something you can say in retrospect after some of these agreements have gone into effect. But there are people who are talking about deep fears, and I wonder if you can go into detail about the kind of precautions Israel is going to take to protect their safety.

[Peres] To start with, people are a little bit frightened because they were frightened. There are political parties who are trying to spread fears and worries, that's normal. But the security alongside the Green Line will remain in the hands of the Israeli Army, so I do not see any reason why they should worry. It is almost like today with one difference: That we shall not have to run the lives of the Palestinians. Let me say one word. There was so much criticism on 'Arafat and his group in Gaza. The fact is that Gaza today is almost quiet. Maybe the quietest period that Gaza has known for a very long time.

[Herschlag] There are protests underway, as we speak, in the West Bank, by Jewish residents there, and they appear in general to be stepping up their protest actions. I wonder if you expect an increase in confrontations between settlers and the army as the implementation of the agreement continues?

[Peres] They are all the time protesting. The protests are not new. I do hope the settlers, like anybody else in the country, will submit to the rule of the majority, which is the nature and the character of democracy.

[Herschlag] One feature of the interim agreement is the redeployment of the army, of course, and in order to do that, Israel wants to pave bypass roads around Arab population centers for the use of Jewish residents. One claim by those Jewish residents is that this is not peace, this is ghettoization. Can you respond to that?

[Peres] They try to accuse time and again by strange names and bizarre definitions. Why is that a ghetto? I do not see any reason why should Jewish settlers pass through the heart of Ramallah or through the heart of Bethlehem. What for? But I add: The other day I went from the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem and there was a very large convoy of Israeli cars. I was the only one who used the bypass road, all the others went through Jericho. Nothing happened to them, and they felt apparently very assured doing so. So I believe the best bypass is to have a different relationship. But since people are so worried, we are also paving bypasses in the physical term and I hope that the two of them combined will really serve the purpose.

[Herschlag] Can you say for sure that no Jewish settlement will be uprooted eventually as part of an agreement with the Palestinians?

[Peres] I can say for sure that the issue of settlements will not be negotiated with the Palestinians. This will remain a total and net Israeli decision.

[Herschlag] Finally, as far as the Palestinians are concerned — I know you do not want to go into the details of the agreements being discussed at this time — but can you give us a sense of when we might see Palestinian elections in the territories?

[Peres] We hope very much before the end of the year. The Palestinians would like to have it in October. I am not sure we can make it in October. Between October and December there are just two months. We, the Israelis, are deeply interested to the Palestinians going to elections before the end of this year because we would not like to have two campaigns in the same year. You know the rhetoric before elections is very harsh and we think let us have everybody have his rhetoric and campaigns separately.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 1 July also carries a recorded interview with Peres, by political correspondent Shlomo Raz and parliamentary correspondent Hayim Hecht. Asked about his upcoming meeting with 'Arafat, Peres says the main problems, which Israel continues to stand firm on involve security. "We depend not only on peace, but also on a suitable IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in those places we regard as sensitive, especially those adjacent to Jewish settlements, and in some, fences will be erected." He refuses, however, to say where fences will be put up. In reference to the controversy over Orient House, Peres says "that while the problem existed during the Likud's term in office it did not close down Orient House because it did not want too many provocations in Jerusalem. The efforts to create maximum tension over Jerusalem and make Jerusalem nervous is foolish. Nobody can take Jerusalem from us through any maneuvers or gestures. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. There is only one regime here." "Jerusalem is unequivocally under Israeli sovereignty and only Israeli sovereignty, Peres added."]

Rabin Says Redeployment Could Take 10 Months

TA0307070195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0400 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the Israeli redeployment in the West Bank may take as long as 10 months to carry out. Speaking last night in Jerusalem, the premier would only say he hoped an agreement with the Palestinians could be worked out

within another month, but he said it would only happen if Israel is satisfied with the security arrangements. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin used an address before the dovish religious movement Netivot Shalom to say Israel will not give in on security, and he was not giving assurances as to when an agreement would be signed on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule. If only we can reach an agreement during the course of July — was the way he put it, but he said first and foremost, the security issues would have to be dealt with.

Repeating Israel's position of a phased army redeployment, that each stage is contingent upon the success of the previous one, the prime minister said Israel may not pull out of some of the West Bank Palestinian cities until April or May of next year, nine to 10 months from now. The premier hinted that Hebron would be, as widely anticipated, the last city on the list with the especially fragile situation there.

Rabin placed the blame for making the situation in the West Bank so difficult on previous governments which scattered settlements, in the prime minister's words, in a way which endangers the lives of the residents there. Still, he indicated that the Palestinian Authority has not been as successful as he would like in fighting terrorism though, he said, he would have to admit that Israel as well has not been totally successful.

But, while much of his attack was aimed at the Israeli right-wing public, he also criticized the extremists on the other side, as he put it, who wished to place, in his view, excessive limitations on the General Security Service [Shin Bet] in the way it conducts its interrogations. Interrogations which, Rabin said, have brought a reduction in terrorist attacks and without which the leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist in Hebron Tahir Qafishah would not have been captured. He was killed by Israeli Border Police last Thursday. His capture is said to have been made possible by the questioning of 'Abid Harizat, who died as a result of his interrogation.

Views Terror, Gaza, Syria, Jerusalem

TA0307110695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1000 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this morning that some 3,000 Palestinians have been apprehended by the Israeli security forces since the Oslo agreement was signed. So far, some 800 of them have been released.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, speaking to the heads of the Labor Knesset faction, Rabin noted

that the security forces have recently scored successes in their war on terrorism, such as capturing of a network of 60 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in East Jerusalem. According to him, the Palestinian Authority has also achieved results in its struggle against Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The reason there is no terror today, Rabin said, is not that they do not want to, but that they cannot.

The prime minister noted that there has been a real improvement in the situation in Gaza. There is a construction drive there, and Israel has been supplying the Gaza Strip with 2,000 metric tons of cement daily.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 3 July adds: "On the talks with the Syrians, Rabin said there was no change of position, but there was a change in the atmosphere."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 3 July carries a similar report adding that "Prime Minister Rabin announced today that the government will close Palestinian institutions that operate illegally in East Jerusalem. This was reported by Knesset Member Ra'anana Kohen, head of the Labor Knesset faction. Kohen noted that Rabin and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert are in agreement regarding the fact that illegal activities do take place at the Orient House in East Jerusalem, but they disagree on the way to deal with this." In a recorded passage, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer says that he "would not like the issue of Orient House to be dealt with on the municipal level, precisely because it is such a sensitive issue. I would like it to be treated on the governmental level because it pertains to foreign relations."]

Cabinet Briefed on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

TA0207094495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq briefed the cabinet today on his talks in Washington and said that although there was a basis for continuing the negotiations, Syria had to present more flexible positions. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Shahaq was implying that Syria must agree to the stationing of early warning stations, demilitarization measures, and confidence-building measures.

As for the negotiations with the Palestinians, the ministers were told that the differences centered around the issue of responsibility over the traffic axes and the rural areas. Israel was demanding to retain control over these areas, whereas the Palestinians were insisting that responsibility be turned over to them.

Rabin, Peres at Odds Over Washington Ceremony

TA0207135695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has relayed a message to the U.S. Administration whereby Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not want the ceremony of signing the agreement on the interim arrangement with the Palestinians to take place at the White House in Washington.

Rabin relayed the message after senior Foreign Ministry elements, in coordination with the Palestinians, relayed an initial suggestion to the Americans to have a formal signing ceremony in Washington. U.S. President Bill Clinton's final decision is now being awaited. The assessment in Jerusalem is that Clinton will accept Rabin's position, but on the other hand, political elements admit that if the U.S. President decides that a ceremony in Washington serves his interests, Rabin will accept his position.

The contradictory positions presented to the U.S. Administration reflect differences in outlooks between Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as to the degree of publicity and ceremoniousness which should be accorded the signing ceremony. Peres and Uri Savir, the Foreign Ministry's director general, believe that a formal ceremony will give renewed momentum to the peace process, will give a boost to both Israeli and Palestinian public opinion, and will promote normalization between Israel and the Arab countries. In contrast, Rabin and others believe that the interim agreement, which was very difficult to achieve, should not be turned into another "festive production."

There are contradictory opinions in Jerusalem and in Washington regarding the impact of a formal ceremony on the Republican Congress, which is hostile toward Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. Those in favor believe that a ceremony will have a positive impact on the U.S. Congress, whereas those who are opposed, including U.S. elements, believe that this will create a new and unnecessary point of friction between the administration and Congress.

Decision To Release Palestinian Prisoners Detailed

TA2906183595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Video report by Correspondent Nitzan Hen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners over the coming days in preparation for the signing of the second stage of the Oslo

agreement. This was agreed upon today by a special ministerial committee at a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Additional hundreds of prisoners will be released prior to elections in the territories. Prisoners convicted of murdering Jews will not be released. Meanwhile, the riots continued in the territories today in solidarity with the prisoners. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

[Begin Hen recording] The decision to release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in the next few days did not stem from the wave of rioting and unrest in the territories. Today, riots took place mainly in Ramallah. In Manarah Square, youths rioted, hurled rocks, and burned tires. Border policemen were compelled to use force, and several demonstrators were arrested. The Palestinian organizations are demanding the immediate release of all the 5,500 prisoners; however, the ministerial committee on prisoner releases which convened today decided on the gradual release of prisoners and set three criteria for this: The candidates for release must disavow terrorism; the candidates must be prisoners whom the Shin Bet estimates will not revert to terrorist activity; and the candidates must not have blood on their hands. Approximately 1,000 prisoners or perhaps more will be released immediately before the signing of the second stage of the agreement with the Palestinians. Another 2,000 will be released prior to the elections in the territories. Convicted murderers, as well as prisoners arrested after the Oslo agreement, will not be released. [end recording]

PLO Given Two Weeks To Request Orient House Rezoning

TA3006094595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO officials were given two weeks to request a rezoning of Orient House or face legal action, according to a decision passed last night by the Jerusalem City Council.

Mayor Ehud Olmert had threatened to shut down Orient House, but the decision taken indicates the move would not be as easy as first represented by him.

The five-point decision empowers city building inspectors to inform Orient House it is in violation of the building code for running an office in a building zoned to be a hotel.

City officials said heavy fines would be imposed immediately on Orient House, but the closure or the eviction of the PLO office remains a long way off — if it will ever occur, the officials conceded.

Over 400 Security Prisoners End Hunger Strike

TA3006183595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report just in: Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that over 400 security prisoners in Junayd prison, Judea and Samaria's main jail, ended their hunger strike tonight and sat down to dinner. They were the dominant group among the hunger strikers, constituting about a quarter of the strikers.

Reportage on Washington Peace Talks With Syria

Syria Proposes 10:6 Demilitarization Ratio

TA0307103795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jul 95 pp A1, A8

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syria proposes that Israel demilitarize territory on both sides of the peace border between the two countries at a ratio of 10 to 6; namely, for each kilometer demilitarized by Syria, Israel would demilitarize 600 meters. This was reported yesterday by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq at the weekly cabinet session.

Shahaq briefed the ministers on his talks in Washington with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi. He said that al-Shihabi proposed that the demilitarized Israeli zone stretch up to Zefat. Al-Shihabi said a demilitarization on a 10:6 ratio would adequately reflect the difference in territory between the two countries. Syria demands that Israel withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines. Since Zefat lies 13-14 km away from this line, this means that the Syrians propose to demilitarize the Golan Heights up to the current disengagement of forces line.

Shahaq said that the Syrian and Israeli concepts on early warning were discussed at the talks in Washington. The Syrians proposed that each country supervise the other country from its own territory, and that in addition that the two sides receive aerial photographs from the United States (similar to the arrangement currently in effect on the Golan). "This is not enough for us, we want early warning stations on the ground," the chief of staff told the ministers.

The chief of staff mentioned several hypotheses about the withdrawal line. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the ministers: "The chiefs of staff could not discuss a withdrawal line, but it has to do with the content of the security arrangements."

A summing-up report about the talks relayed to Jerusalem yesterday by Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich notes that "no agreement was reached on most of the questions, but the discussions ended with a clear feeling that each side understands the position of the other side better and that further discussions could narrow the gaps." [passage omitted]

[Another report by the same correspondent on page A6 adds: "Shahaq spoke appreciatively of al-Shihabi, saying he came away with the impression that he is 'a very businesslike person well-versed in the material.' According to Shahaq, 'the Syrians have not changed their position,' and they regard the 4 June 1967 line as the withdrawal line which will in the future become the international border between Syria and Israel.

"They think it is only natural to return sovereignty to what it was before and to restore the Syrian honor. What was encouraging was the exchanges of views, and the willingness of the Syrians to hear some unpleasant things,' Shahaq recounted. He noted that the Syrians said: 'You Israelis are stronger than us and you have a military alliance with the United States. So, what are you so afraid of?'

"In response to the Israeli proposals to implement confidence-building measures, al-Shihabi said that there was no sense in starting now and that if a peace that includes a withdrawal from the Golan is attained, 'it will bring along confidence.' Shahaq said he raised the problem of terror and Hizballah's activities in Lebanon. The Syrian chief of staff replied: 'We do not equip Hizballah and we do not control them.'"]

U.S. Compromise Being Considered

TA0207115995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Jul 95 p A1, A2

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States has asked Israel and Syria to examine the possibility of Israel's evacuating the early warning station on Mount Hermon, which is currently manned by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Instead, Israel would maintain sophisticated electronic early warning equipment in the place without keeping any Israeli teams there. In such an eventuality, Israel would receive the early warning pictures in distant stations within the Green Line, to where the information will be relayed from Mount Hermon via optic fibers.

It is now clear that the argument between Israel and Syria over the Israeli early warning station on Mount Hermon will be one of the harshest and most difficult within the framework of the talks over the security arrangements on the Golan Heights following the IDF's

withdrawal. For Israel this is an important test-case within the framework of the negotiations. Israel claims this is a clear-cut defensive measure which is an important element in the demilitarization arrangements and the thinning-out of forces. This combination is the best early warning guarantee against a possible surprise attack. Contrary to demilitarization, an early warning station has no link to the final border issue. Israel claims that an early warning station is necessary in any case, without any relation to the final border.

Syria says it is in principle opposed to having any Israeli force remain in its territory following the withdrawal, including early warning stations. Obviously, it also does not want Israel to continue observing from Mount Hermon deep into Syrian territory by means of new equipment. This is why Syria wants to remove the Israeli presence from the Hermon at all costs. Syria also does not want the Israelis replaced by U.S. teams, as was the case in the Umm Husaybah early warning station within the framework of the interim agreement between Israel and Egypt.

The proposal to have U.S. teams replace the Israeli teams on Mount Hermon still exists in a general way, but Israel insists that the teams on the mountain must be only Israeli. In order to prove its seriousness in this demand, Israel has proposed the possibility of allowing Syria to establish its own early warning station in the Galilee. Contrary to what has been published, the location of such a station has not yet been discussed.

Against this background, the Americans have started examining whether the sides will agree to the alternative of having Israeli early warning equipment installed in the place instead of manning it. This alternative will obviously be more palatable to Syria than the others. Israeli experts say that the new electronic equipment guarantees the reception of distant information. They add, however, that this information will be less incontestable than the information obtained at present. They emphasize that just as a satellite cannot replace an early warning station on the ground, so the electronic equipment cannot serve as a satisfactory substitute for the human element, especially in the initial period of several years after a peace agreement is signed, during which the fear of the agreement's being violated will be high. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Fear al-Asad Reaction

TA0207115295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
2 Jul 95 p 5

[Report by correspondents Hemi Shalev and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem is anxiously awaiting Hafiz al-Asad's reaction to the results of the chiefs of staff talks in Washington last week, after he is briefed about the talks by Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Israeli political sources yesterday said there is a good chance that al-Asad will decide to create a new crisis in the negotiations, as he did after the last round of chiefs of staff talks last December. The sources noted that there are signs indicating that al-Asad will be disappointed with the lack of substantial change in Israel's position regarding the security arrangements issue.

At the same time the sources noted that Chief of Staff Shahaq briefed Rabin that despite the huge gaps between the two sides, al-Shihabi had showed a willingness to continue discussing Israeli demands rejected by Damascus, such as the early warning station on the ground. [passage omitted]

Shahaq on 'Dialogue' With Syrians

TA3006061495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq in Washington by political correspondent Udi Segal on 30 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] Good morning Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

[Shahaq] Hello.

[Segal] What are your feelings upon leaving Washington for Israel?

[Shahaq] My feelings are not the important aspect of what happened here. The results of the discussions and the basis we achieved for the continuation of the talks are more important. At the conclusion of two days of meetings with the Syrians I can say that we established a dialogue and exchanged views. Both parties clarified their positions and it was very clearly understood — and this is also important — that there remains very wide gap between both parties' positions and we still have a great deal of work ahead of us if we seek to bridge these differences.

[Segal] When you sat down with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, did you sense a Syrian readiness to deviate from their positions in order to make progress?

Did you sense a desire to move the process forward with regard to all the issues pertaining to the security arrangements?

[Shahaq] We only discussed security arrangements. The Syrians presented their positions. As you could understand from my remarks earlier, there are still very big gaps between the Israeli and Syrian positions as we understood them over the past two days.

[Segal] Could it be said that you did not really conduct negotiations but merely presented each side's respective positions and started discussing some of the issues in order to reach some sort of agreement?

[Shahaq] I do not know if one could call it negotiations. On the other hand, it was not a show. It was a dialogue that included an exchange of information, views, and thoughts. Each party presented its positions and understandings as to its needs with regard to the security arrangements.

[Segal] Perhaps you could explain to the Israeli public how one conducts a dialogue on security arrangements without withdrawal lines or without the borders that Israel will pull back to on the Golan Heights?

[Shahaq] That is why launching a dialogue on the details will only be possible when there is much wider agreement and an understanding between the two parties about what is being discussed. That is why we refrained from going into detail this time and only discussed the principles and fundamental issues that — if and when we achieve agreement on the points you raised, as well as on other aspects, such as the timetable and the nature of normalization between the two countries — will have to be translated into details that will be anchored in a whole series of figures, distances, and so forth.

[Segal] Did you receive any clarifications from the Syrians with regard to south Lebanon. I am referring to the implementation of the Syrian commitment to restrain Hizballah's activities following Operation Accountability?

[Shahaq] We presented the Israeli position. We explained our viewpoint on the issue and the Syrians listened. There was no dialogue or discussion with the Syrians on this question.

[Segal] Do you know that there has been a public debate in Israel over the past few days following the publication of a document prepared by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch that was exposed by Likud Chairman Netanyahu. How do you regard the fact that the IDF now finds itself the focus of a public controversy?

[Shahaq] This has nothing to do with the talks held here over the past two days. If I decide to comment on this matter I will do so when I return to Israel.

[Segal] Thank you, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 30 June adds: "Israeli officials said there had been an agreement in principle that early warning systems and demilitarized limited-deployment zones would be needed, although no specifics had been decided. One official said Syria was ready to accept early warning from the air, but was not receptive to Israel's demand for ground stations. The officials made clear al-Shihabi had not accepted Israel's suggestion for immediate confidence-building-measures [CBM's] such as a hot line between Israeli and Syrian officers, and advanced notice of military maneuvers. They said Damascus wanted CBM's as part of an overall peace agreement, not before, as Israel is proposing.]

2d Document Leaked; Problems in Talks Noted

TA2906183895 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jun 95*

[Studio talk between anchorman Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Good evening to Gadi Sukenik. Look, all this business about documents is starting to be worrisome. Yesterday's paper is apparently not the only leak.

[Sukenik] No. The truth is that I am holding another document that we are prohibited from showing the viewers. I can reveal that it is three pages long, and according to my assessments and sources, as well as sources apparently within the General Staff's Strategic Planning Division, it is also signed by Brigadier General Tzvi Stauber, the head of the division who is currently negotiating with the Syrians in Washington. But the censors got their act together this evening, as opposed to yesterday when they permitted us for the first time to reveal in full the document prepared by the Strategic Planning Division. That paper spelled out the principles of the discussions with Syria. Now we have in our possession a document the contents of which I cannot reveal. This is a very central preparatory document for the discussions. We have it, but the censors are preventing us from publishing it.

[Yavin] Do you have other documents on the way?

[Sukenik] No, but what I can say in the form of summation — without any connection to this specific document — is that the information reaching the decisionmakers from Washington is that.... [pauses] We are talking about a document that serves as the basis for the chiefs

of staff discussions, a document on security understandings that was formulated recently and never published. This paper was divided — and this is already common knowledge — into two parts: goals and principles. The goals serve Israel's interests more while the principles favor Syria. It now transpires that the fears surrounding this document at the General Staff and the prime minister's bureau were justified. Although preparing the way for negotiations, the document is meandering and problematic. There is asymmetry in the discussions. Each side views the clauses as justifying its positions. There are conflicting interpretations. Therefore, as we have already heard, no progress was made today. The Syrians are demanding a full Israeli withdrawal on the basis of almost every clause in the previously formulated document of understandings, and they are also demanding among other things in the clause relating to equality in security arrangements that Israel end its privileged relationship with the United States, that it reduce the size of its air force and its strategic weapons systems such as its nuclear arsenal — if it really possesses one — and so forth. In short, things look complicated and problematic. As things stand now, the document of understandings has not led to any agreements. Perhaps in the future.

[Yavin] Well, at least the atmosphere at the talks has improved. Thank you very much, Gadi Sukenik.

Further on 2d Leaked Document

TA3006184995 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jun 95*

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the studio]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq returned home from Washington this afternoon from his talks with the Syrian chief of staff and conferred with Prime Minister Rabin. The General Staff forecasted that the document on security understandings, agreed upon at the time between Israel and Syria, will necessarily lead to differences of opinion at the chiefs of staff meeting, according to a top-secret written analysis which was the basis for the preparations by the chief of staff and his team for the Washington negotiations.

The second document leaked this week on the negotiations with the Syrians reveals further information about what is happening in the deliberations. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Sukenik] Originally, only the chief of staff and a small group of his closest advisers were supposed to see the analysis of the document of understandings, which is the only joint document worked out so far with Syria. It was the basis for the chiefs of staff talks. The new document

made public here is as far as is known the twin of the document on the principles of security arrangements with the Syrians, from which the Likud chairman quoted in the Knesset Wednesday [28 June] and which we presented in full for the first time Wednesday night. This document was also written by Brigadier General Tzvi Stauber, in charge of strategic planning in the Strategic Planning Division and a member of the negotiating team with the Syrians. The paper in front of us shows that the document on security understandings between Israel and Syria was written in such a way as to permit various and contradictory interpretations, so that each side can find in it support for its position, as happened in Washington. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] apparently expected the Syrians to oppose early warning stations on the Golan Heights and the demilitarization of areas near Damascus. The analysis also forecast that already in the initial stage of the discussions on the security arrangements, the Syrians would find in it support for their demand for a full Israeli withdrawal so that nobody in Syria would in the future have any excuse or incentive to go to war. A different clause can apparently be interpreted as meaning that Israel will implement a full withdrawal. The agreement reached at the time about the possibility of geographic inequality in security, in other words, much more demilitarized land on the Syrian side, is also problematic, and partially even favors the Syrian claims. The Planning Division believes, we learn from the document, that the clause is open to differing interpretations and that the Syrians will make use of it regarding issues about the Damascus area. The current document has three pages, and together with the five pages of the earlier document, it presents a rare semi-official, almost full, picture of the heart of the peace negotiations with the Syrians.

Peres Comments on 2d Army Document

*TA3006093095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 30 Jun 95*

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ge'ula Even, Gil Yerushalmi, and political correspondent Udi Segal; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Even] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Even] Were you aware of the existence of the document published this morning?

[Peres] No.

[Even] You are now hearing about it for the first time?

[Peres] Yes.

[Even] So now we have two documents that were published in the media: The first one was revealed by Binyamin Netanyahu and the second one this morning. To what extent do the Syrians know about these working papers?

[Peres] First of all, it is only natural for the General Staff to prepare numerous working papers for consideration, discussion, and evaluation. There is nothing new about this. It is really scandalous on the part of these people, who gained possession of these papers illegally, to reveal their contents to the Syrians in the very midst of negotiations; and then to seek to increase confusion and uncertainty by claiming that these are the prime minister's instructions to the chief of staff. This is truly a terrible combination.

[Even] But perhaps Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu feels that he bears national responsibility toward his voters to expose the truth about what is going on in the negotiations with the Syrians; and considers it legitimate, among other things, to reveal the contents of these documents which may constitute working papers in the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Peres] What truth did he reveal? What has been published here that was not known before? This is an attempt to foil any possibility of orderly work processes in a democratic country. What did he expose? The document is more philosophical than territorial. What great disclosures did he make? He merely exposed the fact that a theft had taken place.

[Yerushalmi] Mr. Peres, let us address the specific details that were revealed today. If the General Staff has reached the conclusion that the understandings reached between Syria and Israel are leading to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights then what conclusions should the Syrians be expected to draw?

[Peres] I do not know. Just as we listen to their problems, the Syrians should also pay heed to the problems of the other side. Negotiations are negotiations. One does not conduct negotiations on one sentence or one position. We are talking about a very complex, variegated, and multifaceted process in which every agreement on one topic naturally has an impact on another set of issues. Therefore, I feel that any attempt to reduce the whole thing to the question of whether or not to withdraw from the Golan Heights makes it more difficult for people to understand what we are talking about.

[Segal] Mr. Peres, it appears that you have started the negotiations from the end. The officers are sitting there. The chief of staff told us that the details cannot be discussed before some basic decisions are reached, such as where the withdrawal line will be. Do you

not think that the political echelon should make the necessary political decisions before sending the officers to a meeting which ultimately hurls them into the center of a political storm?

[Peres] I believe that the political echelon should make the required political decisions. Sometimes in order to reach such decisions, one has to know the security parameters and what we can count on. For example, which elevation lines and early warning and deterrence points we are talking about. This is a very serious and complex matter and one has to know all the details before reaching a comprehensive decision.

[Even] Perhaps it would have been possible to avoid the embarrassment surrounding the disclosure of these documents....

[Peres, interrupting] There was absolutely no embarrassment here. It was simply....

[Even, interrupting] But you nevertheless initially told the media that Netanyahu's document did not exist.

[Peres] No, we never said that the document did not exist. We said that there were no instructions from the prime minister to the chief of staff.

[Yerushalmi] Are you not embarrassed by your reaction at the Knesset when you said that it was one big bluff?

[Peres] No, I really think that Netanyahu wrote it. The bit called instructions from the prime minister to the chief of staff was written by Binyamin Netanyahu. There is not, and never was, such a document.

[Even] But since you agree with us that the fact that such military documents are leaking is an extremely grave phenomenon, then perhaps this is where the government should decide to reveal everything to the public with regard to the negotiations with Syria so that the people will know where we stand?

[Peres] Is it possible to conduct negotiations like this? If the other side sees all our cards it will have a tremendous advantage. Who ever heard of holding negotiations this way? Each side sets its own opening positions, interim stands, and closing positions. If everything is published then, there would be no negotiations. That is the best way to serve the Syrians. Nor can the public be expected to be knowledgeable about all the small details of the negotiations. Can anyone reading this document understand its contents? I was also deeply touched by Mr. Begin's remarks who said that the most important part of the document was what it did not specify. One can always leak things that are not even written down.

[Yerushalmi] The interim accord between Israel and the Palestinians has not been signed yet. Tomorrow is 1 July. Where do the negotiations on this matter stand?

[Peres] We are working at full steam in order to reach agreement on the remaining points of contention.

[Even] But one can safely assume that you will not be signing the agreement tomorrow and that you will not be signing the full agreement on the interim arrangement even if you meet PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 1 July?

[Peres] I prefer not to make any predictions. I admit that a great deal of work still lies ahead but we may achieve an understanding in principle on several issues.

[Segal] Is there a date for your meeting with 'Arafat?

[Peres] Not yet.

[Even] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Rabinovich on Shahaq-al-Shihabi Meeting

*TA3006101695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
30 Jun 95 p 5*

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States, by Drora Perl and On Levi in Washington "this week;" place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich has been involved in the peace talks between Israel and Syria for two and a half years. At the end of the meeting of the chiefs of staff this week, Rabinovich termed the latest round of talks very successful.

"In-depth discussions were held about the security arrangements," said Rabinovich. "My impression is positive, although the discussions exposed the gaps and basic differences that still exist in the Syrian and Israeli approaches to the issue. Questions of a political nature and questions unrelated to the security arrangements were mentioned but were not discussed. Each time such a question came up it was decided that it belongs to another track of the dialogue. Differences of opinion emerged about the specific security arrangements and the overall approach, with Israel seeking the most comprehensive arrangements possible, while Syria tends toward a narrow view of the arrangements."

[DAVAR] What is a broad view and what is a narrow view?

[Rabinovich] We are talking about demilitarization and the thinning-out of troops. Israel takes a broad view of this issue. It wants to demilitarize and thin out a much larger area out of concern for its security. The Syrians have a narrow view, and they want to demilitarize and thin out a smaller area. A similar gap exists between Israel and Syria on the issue of early warning. Once again, Israel's concept about early warning — what it entails and what should be done to provide good

answers — is much more comprehensive. Owing to the fact that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is based on reserve troops and we do not keep a reasonable number of troops on the border, we need more warning time. That is why we want better early warning. The Syrians are prepared to make do with more modest early-warning arrangements.

[DAVAR] Were there disagreements on the issue of early warning?

[Rabinovich] Early warning is an issue accepted by all and there are hardly any problems with it. The most problematic term in the document of understandings that preceded the meeting of the chiefs of staff was equality (in the security arrangements). As far as the term equality is concerned, its most problematic aspect was the geographical one. Early warning is not so much a geographical question, and that is why we do not have a problem of equality with it, as we have with regard to the demilitarization of the area.

[DAVAR] Did you manage to overcome the problem of equality?

[Rabinovich] No. This question was discussed in concrete terms and no agreement was reached. We still disagree about those questions, but I think that the IDF chief of staff and the Syrian chief of staff understand better each other's approach, and clearly this is not the end of the discussion or the end of the road.

[DAVAR] Are there more understandings and agreements today on the question of demilitarization?

[Rabinovich] There are areas of agreement on the issue of early warning. I would not like to talk about gaps being closed, but areas of agreement and understanding have definitely emerged on this point. As for the demilitarization, there is still more disagreement than agreement, and this is definitely a very tough part of the negotiations. It is hard to make a leap of faith from the current reality to the future everybody would like to see.

[DAVAR] Did Israel agree to soften its positions with regard to the deployment of the army?

[Rabinovich] Army deployment in times of peace is a fragile and delicate issue. It is one of the most difficult and fascinating aspects of peace-making. We are still at a stage where there is suspicion and distrust between the two sides, and this is really a very tough part of the negotiations. The question of cutting down the size of the armies is one of those questions which should be handled with imagination and flexibility.

[DAVAR] Was the issue not discussed in the previous meeting of the chiefs of staff?

[Rabinovich] No, what we had then was mainly a mutual presentation of positions. The deliberations were adjourned even before they started. They were supposed to resume in January, but the Syrians decided to adjourn them.

[DAVAR] Some argue that the previous meeting failed because Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq hardly allowed the Syrian representative to say a word.

[Rabinovich] A big myth surrounds that meeting. In hindsight, it was far more successful than believed, although we failed to carefully prepare for the meeting, which was held almost spontaneously.

[DAVAR] How do the negotiators affect the creation of a better atmosphere?

[Rabinovich] One must bear in mind that these negotiations are being directed by the highest political levels. Hence, the rules of the game are largely set by the decisions and guidelines of the political level. Also, the first meeting was held in a certain context. The second meeting had the advantage of drawing on the conclusions from the previous one. Another advantage is that it was preceded by a long period of detailed and exhaustive negotiations about understandings and a great deal of the negative energy was spent in these preliminary talks. Then, of course, the personality of the negotiator carries a certain weight.

[DAVAR] Did you notice a difference between Shahaq and Baraq?

[Rabinovich] Each has his own style, but I do not know how much of an operational significance this carries. When all is said and done, the personal dimension is a marginal factor in the overall picture. I do not believe that a national conflict can be solved only as a result of chemistry between two people.

[DAVAR] How did you break the ice at the outset of the talks?

[Rabinovich] The charged atmosphere was not dispelled by a trick, but by reality. A discussion ensued as soon as the sides presented their positions, and after everything was said and the differences were presented in their full bluntness it emerged that both sides want to pursue a dialogue. I believe that the dialogue that ensued is what changed the atmosphere. The Americans posed the first questions, but that is not the point. This time it was clear that both sides had come to the meeting out of a wish to pursue a true dialogue, and this mutual wish is what made the difference.

[DAVAR] Where does the peace process with Syria stand?

[Rabinovich] We have reached another station on the Trans-Siberian Railway. There are many more stations ahead of us before we reach our destination.

[DAVAR] What was achieved in the meeting in anticipation of the talks between officers of the two armies and what should be done in the time left until those talks are held?

[Rabinovich] There is work to be done on the political level. We expect the U.S. peace team to travel to the region to confer with the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister, with President al-Asad, and with the Israeli working teams. The work will be done on two levels. The technical preparations will have to be more specific this time, particularly in view of the fact that we detected gaps pertaining to the early warning and early-warning technologies, and it is now the experts' turn to work. The U.S. peace team will try to narrow the gaps between the sides on these issues.

[DAVAR] You have a lot of experience in meetings with the Syrians. Can you compare the two meetings?

[Rabinovich] Chief of Staff al-Shihabi holds a key position in the Syrian leadership and working with him cannot be compared to the work with other Syrian representatives. This was a meeting between two enemy chiefs of staff who explained to each other what is bothering them in the security sphere, although there was not yet full openness. We are still making the transition from hostility to peace. This can only be done on the military level, and this is what gave this meeting its unique quality.

[DAVAR] You spoke about al-Shihabi's status. Does he enjoy any latitude?

[Rabinovich] We did not measure his latitude. Al-Shihabi enjoys very senior status and he has impressive credentials. All these turn him into a formidable negotiator.

[DAVAR] Was there any softening in the Syrian position?

[Rabinovich] Not yet, but I believe we can reach the golden mean and attain agreement.

[DAVAR] Are we closer to peace than before?

[Rabinovich] We are treading a path which could lead to a peace arrangement. The last three days somewhat brought us closer to our objective.

[DAVAR] What was the role of the Americans in the talks?

[Rabinovich] The Americans attended the talks as observers. They occasionally made remarks, but this was primarily a direct dialogue between us and the

Syrians. I believe that the meeting the chiefs of staff held with President Bill Clinton is important in its own right, as well as projects on the side and in the entire region. The President is prepared to invest time, effort, and prestige to promote the talks, and this is an important signal to all the participants in the process.

[DAVAR] Was there any progress on the issue of confidence-building measures?

[Rabinovich] The deliberations on this issue were relatively short, and work remains to be done.

[DAVAR] Was Israel's wish to remain on the western edge of the Golan Heights discussed?

[Rabinovich] This does not belong to the security arrangements but to the deliberations about the scope of the withdrawal and, therefore, it did not come up at all.

[DAVAR] How would you sum up the meeting?

[Rabinovich] It was a good meeting, another link in the chain. We must now look ahead at the next link. These negotiations have been difficult from their very inception. Difficult but possible.

IDF Views Understandings Paper

TA3006084595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Jun 95 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben; words within slantlines published in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] In anticipation of the departure of the officers delegation headed by the chief of staff for the talks with the Syrians in Washington, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch prepared an analysis of the Israeli-Syrian document of understandings which has enabled the resumption of the military talks.

The author of the analysis, Brigadier General Tzvi Stauber, refers to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The analysis says that one of the security arrangement principles determined in the understandings "would seem" to justify the Syrian claim that the "zero line" (the line on both sides of which the security arrangements are to be implemented) is the international border or the 4 June 1967 line — which means a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Here is the text of the document, titled: "An Analysis of the Document of Understandings."

— An analysis of the document of understandings.

The document is made up of two parts: the objectives of the security arrangements, phrased in a manner serving Israel's interests; and the principles of the security

arrangements, phrased in a way that favors the well known Syrian position and imposing restrictions on the first part.

The document is an acknowledged basis for the discussions, but it allows for different and even contradictory interpretations and harbors a potential for arguments and differences of opinion regarding the correct interpretation.

— The objectives of the security arrangements:

The first and main objective is "to reduce, if not to almost totally /eliminate/ the danger of a surprise attack."

This stated objective could ostensibly serve as a basis for justifying our demands for security arrangements such as demilitarization, a thinning-out of forces, early warning, foreign presence, verification, supervision, and transparency measures.

As opposed to this, here are the restrictions implied in the principles part:

1. "One side's security demands, or the guarantees therefor, cannot come at the expense of the other side."
2. "The security arrangements will be commensurate with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each side" — a demand that could serve the Syrian position of opposing a demilitarization of the area from which we withdraw and early warning stations on the ground, of reducing the foreign presence and its role, as well as their position on the Damascus issue.
3. "The security arrangements will be /confined/ to the relevant areas on both sides of the border."
4. "The purpose of the security arrangements — to ensure equality in overall security in the context of peace between the two countries."

The second objective — "preventing or limiting daily friction along the border" — can serve our claims on the separation of forces issue. A counterclaim is that even a limited separation by means of a buffer zone — the range of weapons in the thinned-out areas, the aerial regime, the liaison and coordination mechanisms, confidence-building measures, and possibly terror in Lebanon — would be sufficient. [sentence as published]

The third objective — "to reduce the danger of a large scale offensive, invasion, or comprehensive war" — impacts on the size of the armies, the arms race, and normalization, and altogether supports our position. The Syrians, on the other hand, could use this as a justification for regarding Israel's withdrawal as a way to eliminate the incentive for war.

The principles:

1. "The legitimate need of each of the parties is that the security of one party or the guarantees thereof should not be achieved at the expense of the other."

This is a recurring Syrian demand, which also cropped up in the talks between the chiefs of staff. We can use it to justify our demand for a demilitarization of the area we withdraw from. The withdrawal removes the Israeli threat to Damascus and bolsters Syria's security. If the Syrians move forward and take control of the area we vacate, Israel's security will be affected and we deserve to be compensated for this withdrawal in the form of arrangements that can guarantee that the enhancement in Syrian security will not come at our expense.

It is worthwhile to note the contention that the guarantees for the security of one party will not come at the expense of the other. On the one hand, this has a bearing on Israel's relations with the United States and on the other hand on the Arab League and inter-Arab defense pacts.

2. The second principle, which is more detailed and states that "the security arrangements will be /equal, mutual, and reciprocal on both sides/, stipulates that "if in the course of negotiations, it transpires that the implementation of equality, from the geographical dimension, proves impossible with regard to specific arrangements, then experts from both sides will discuss the problematic aspects of the specific arrangement and solve them — whether through /modification/ (including additions or subtractions) or through some other agreed upon and acceptable solution with a single variable."

In this regard, the clause is phrased in convoluted language and is open to conflicting interpretations, because the rule calls for full equality and reciprocity; however, under certain conditions (and this is the exception not the rule) some geographic inequality is possible, if equality proves difficult to implement, which is a very subjective matter.

The formulations are supposed to help support our positions; however, it is very likely that the Syrians will exploit them with regard to Damascus.

The principle of geographical inequality is central to our concept of the security arrangements and is crucial for us. Should we succeed in securing this principle, then equality in the scope of the order of battle in the security strips is not necessarily to our disadvantage, especially if we can prevent the inclusion of reserve troops in the calculations.

This clause also sets the principle of equality in the comprehensive security of both parties in peacetime. This assertion tends to favor the Syrian contentions because it seems to justify the inclusion of relations

with the United States, the quality of weapon systems, the air force, and strategic weapons in the equation of the strategic balance.

We could posit claims about regional support, Syria's backing in the Arab world, its total size, and other components of inequality.

3. "Security arrangements must coincide with each party's sovereignty and territorial integrity;" "the arrangements will be confined to the relevant areas on both sides of the border."

This is a problematic contention as far as Israel is concerned, which serves the Syrian demand for geographical symmetry and a thinned-out strip only near the border rather than a strip stretching deep inside each country's territory. This seems to lead to a claim that the zero line is the border (whether the international border or the 4 June 1967 borders), according to which Israel will carry out a full withdrawal.

Poll Shows Rabin's Popularity Rising

TA0107181895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's popularity is on the rise, according to the poll conducted by the Telesefer Institute for Channel 2. Some 43 percent of the interviewees said they would vote for Rabin if the personal elections for prime minister were held today. Three months ago, less than 40 percent gave that response.

Some 42 percent said they would vote for Binyamin Netanyahu compared to almost 45 percent who said that three months ago. Fifteen percent have still not decided how they would vote.

When we add Refa'el Eytan and David Levi to the prime minister's race, Rabin gets 39 percent, Netanyahu gets 30 percent, Eytan gets 12 percent, and Levi gets almost 8 percent.

The significance of these figures is that none of the competitors can win the necessary 50 percent to be elected; therefore, there will have to be a second round.

If Eytan and Levi join the race they will have a clear-cut and strong impact by forcing a second round on the two main competitors.

The public's general satisfaction with the prime minister's performance has also risen over the past three months. The main surprise was in the economic field. Over 50 percent handed Rabin a good grade in that field compared to 33 percent in the previous poll.

Finally, asked which party they would vote for if elections were held today, 55 percent would vote for the left-wing bloc, 50 percent for the right-wing parties, and 15 percent for the religious parties [figures as heard]. Were the three new parties to run in the elections, they would win a total of 9 Knesset seats: five for David Levi, 2 for the Third Way, and one each for the immigrant parties. Most of those seats would come from the right wing.

To conclude, over 1,500 people participated in the poll.

**Official Denies Participation in Geneva
Multilaterals**

NC0107111295 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0900 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zafir al-Hasan, Lebanese Foreign Ministry director general, denied today that Lebanon is participating in multilateral negotiations in Geneva. He added that Lebanon will not attend such talks unless concrete, essential progress is made at the Lebanese-Israeli bilateral talks.

Al-Hariri, Birri Deny Report on Talks

NC0107112395 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1030 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri have denied knowledge of a meeting that an Israeli radio station said was recently held in Geneva between Lebanese, Syrian, and Israeli representatives to discuss water issues in the context of the multilateral negotiations.

The speaker and prime minister said the report was not true and that for the past four years Lebanon and Syria have committed themselves to avoiding the multilateral negotiations until progress is made in the bilateral negotiations, demonstrating Israel's willingness to abide by UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Meets Syrian Officials in Damascus

NC0307060095 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0430 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met in Damascus yesterday with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks dealt with local and regional issues.

**UN Official Comments on Fate of Kidnapped
Journalist**

NC3006114495 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1030 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hander Vander Clott [name as heard], resident coordinator of UN activity and resident United Nations Development Program coordinator in Lebanon, has stated that the fate of UNRWA journalist Alec Collet, kidnapped on 28 March 1985, will be released in the near future [sentence as heard].

He noted that the Lebanese Government is trying to get results in this regard. He emphasized that this issue is purely humanitarian.

He made these remarks during a farewell news conference at the UN information office in Beirut at the end of his 3-year tour in Lebanon.

Former Speaker's Son Escapes Assassination Bid

NC0307073995 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South*
in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad al-As'ad, son of former Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, miraculously escaped an assassination attempt in Dayr Ntar in Tibnin District last night.

Ahmad al-As'ad's office explained that gunfire was opened on his motorcade in the town. Several bodyguards were hurt. A stun bomb was also hurled at Kamal Hujayj's house in Dayr Ntra, where Ahmad al-As'ad was attending a meeting of the Hujayj clan.

Hizballah Official Dies in Car Explosion in South

NC3006073295 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South*
in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Western news agency has reported that 'Ali Sa'd, 37, a Hizballah leader, was killed when his car, which had been booby-trapped, exploded when he switched on the engine at 0800 today. Citing security sources in south Lebanon, the news agency said that the explosion, which split the car in two, occurred in an area along the coastal road to the south of Tyre.

According to the same security sources, Sa'd, who was a local Hizballah figure, was killed instantly.

No party has claimed responsibility for the attack and Hizballah has not mentioned the incident.

Two Israeli Soldiers Killed in Tank Explosion

NC0307081695 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
0800 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1000 today two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded when a bomb exploded under their tank near Bra'shit.

Earlier today a violent confrontation occurred between Resistance fighters and Israeli occupation forces, when Israeli commandos tried to infiltrate Bra'shit.

Islamic Resistance: Israeli Infiltration Bid Foiled

NC0307063695 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed*
in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0300 today the Islamic Resistance repulsed an attempt by a 50-member Zionist commando force to infiltrate Bra'shit to carry out aggressive acts.

Among the details, the Islamic Resistance mujahidin spotted a commando force. When the commando force came within firing range the mujahidin let off machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades. A violent clash ensued in which the commando force suffered numerous casualties. The commando force was forced to retreat.

SLA, 'Terrorists' Exchange Gunfire; No Casualties

NC0207080195 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the security situation in the border area, the terrorists fired a barrage of gunfire and rockets at the 'Alman position shortly after midnight. The attack caused no casualties. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] returned fire with the appropriate weapons.

Elsewhere, SLA troops monitored a terrorist group in 'Arab Salim last night. The SLA troops attacked the group. There have been no immediate reports on the outcome of the attack.

On 30 June two Hizballah terrorists were killed and two others were injured when a clash began between a terrorist group and a SLA patrol near Sujud.

Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties in Attacks

NC0107081995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Due to the Zionist aggression, the enemy has bombarded the outskirts Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Ayn Qana, Jabal al-Rafi', the al-Litani River basin, and Nab' al-Tasah, causing several fires. The Zionists also hit Tibnin with several shells. One woman was seriously injured.

The Islamic Resistance has carried out several operations in retaliation to the Zionist assaults.

In a statement issued yesterday, it reported that it monitored a Zionist troop assembly point in Jabal Shmays in al-'Urqub area and said that a Resistance artillery support unit bombarded it with the required weapons and scored direct hits.

Another Islamic Resistance group detonated an explosive device under a Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army—SLA] patrol on the Bayt Yahun-Funin road, causing numerous casualties.

Another Resistance statement reported that one of its groups ambushed a mechanized Lahd forces patrol made up of two troop carriers and six infantry troops travelling toward the Sujud position. Resistance fighters hailed machine-gun and rocket fire at the patrol. They completely destroyed one of the troop carriers, killing

or wounding its occupants, and injured many other members of the patrol.

Shelling Kills Resistance Fighter, Wounds Citizen

NC3006165195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's shelling today of the village of Tibnin wounded citizen Maryam 'Atwah, who was taken to the village's government hospital.

The Islamic Resistance has announced the martyrdom of Fadi Ahmad Hamadah, who was killed following the brutal Israeli shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah Region.

Today southerners woke early to the sound of explosions. Wadi al-Hujayr and Wadi al-Saluqi came under 155-mm fire from the enemy position in al-Qantarrah. Al-Jabal al-Rafi' and the al-Litani River basin came under 82-mm mortar fire. At approximately 0900 the villages of Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haris came under heavy 120-mm fire.

Explosive Device Wounds SLA Member

NC3006073195 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our military correspondent, an explosive device placed by saboteurs on the Bra'shit road exploded at the moment that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was passing. The blast injured one member of the patrol.

Immediately afterwards, SLA and Israeli artillery bombarded the saboteurs' positions opposite the area where the incident took place.

Lahd Says SLA Does Not Shell Lebanese Villages

NC2906182695 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd has stated that Hizballah does not pose any threat to the border strip and cannot enter it. He added that Hizballah's basic goal is not to fight Israel, but to use the so-called resistance to the occupation to tighten its grip on the Shiite community in Lebanon and become its sole spokesman. This ultimately harms the interests of the Lebanese Government.

General Lahd said Syria supports Hizballah not because of its operations against the border strip, but in order to show the Lebanese Government that Syria cannot leave Lebanon because Lebanon does not have the necessary force to control Hizballah. Syria's aim is to remain in

Lebanon after peace is concluded, even if Israel leaves the border strip.

General Lahd asserted that the SLA is now in the best shape since its was founded. All rumors circulated by some Lebanese media, especially Hizballah media, to the contrary are groundless. He said: As a Lebanese, I have given firm orders to SLA soldiers not to shell villages even if Hizballah shells the villages in our area. We do not shell the villages north of the border strip, because their inhabitants are Lebanese.

General Lahd accused the Lebanese Government of helping Hizballah militarily and morally. He said: We are not against the Lebanese state, but we fight any person who wants to fight us. He added that Israel will not leave the border strip without certain guarantees. These include the nonprosecution of the inhabitants of the border strip, their assimilation into the Lebanese state, and the incorporation of the SLA into the Lebanese Army.

Concluding, General Lahd said: I am not against the Lebanese Government or state but I am against a puppet government that cannot make a political decision and which follows the orders of others.

Hizballah Clashes With Israeli Army; Deaths Cited
NC2906174795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In southern Lebanon, Hizballah has announced that at about 1300 today one of its units attacked an Israeli armored patrol near al-'Ayshiyah in the eastern sector in the border strip.

A source in Hizballah says the exchange of fire continued for one hour after the Hizballah fighters attacked the Israeli forces. Some Israelis were killed and others injured at the outset, according to the Hizballah source. At the same time, security sources reported that violent artillery exchanges took place between Hizballah and the Israeli Army. However, so far no independent source has confirmed if there were any martyrs, nor has Israel done so.

Rabin Remarks on Clash Based on 'Mistaken Information'

NC2906152195 Kafr Killa Voice of the South
in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of foreign correspondents visited the Israeli Liaison Office [in Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon] today and met with General Guiora Inbar, who briefed them on the security situation.

Inbar praised the South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers, saying they are defending their villages and people and are doing their jobs proficiently. Inbar said there is full coordination between the SLA and the Israeli Army, adding that relations between the two armies will remain excellent.

Inbar disclosed that the girl who was killed recently in the SLA shelling of Shaqra was an official of the Hizballah Girl Scouts and that her brothers have close relations with the terrorists. The gunfire that drew the response from the SLA and which was directed at the Hula crossing point came from near the house where the girl was killed.

Inbar said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's recent remarks [on the SLA] were based on mistaken information he received on the situation. He said: We later put the prime minister into the true picture after we launched our own investigation. He confirmed that the Israeli Army's policy is to reply to sources of gunfire wherever they are.

Hizballah Chief Views SLA, 'Zionist' Relations

NC0107144395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The remnants of the agent militia [South Lebanese Army — SLA] have admitted the death of one their members and the wounding of another in a Resistance operation. The Resistance stated that the agents have suffered greater losses than this. Usually, the militia remains silent about its casualties in Islamic Resistance operations so that the progressive collapse of its force stops, particularly in light of the current crisis between the militia and its masters in the usurping entity.

The militia's poor status has compelled the enemy's government to remove its cover and hold it responsible for shelling southern villages. The agent Antoine Lahd, sensing that the Zionists are abandoning him, is denying his responsibility for shelling the villages.

Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has declared: The decision of the agent Lahd not to shell the liberated villages does not concern us. What concerns us is that these villages should not again be assaulted.

Nasrallah said the missiles the Resistance fired at Zionist colonies were the reason the enemy and its agents took this position.

Sayyid Nasrallah, who was speaking during a ceremony organized by the Martyr's Charitable Social Society in Burj al-Barajinah [in Beirut], said: Today we can all see

the extent of the attrition against the occupation forces in the south. Rabin himself admits this. This success should be credited to the sacrifices and jihad of our mujahidin in the south and the endurance and great resolution of our people in the south and western al-Biq'a'.

Commenting on reports noting the prospect of the enemy removing the Lahd's militia cover in return for a so-called Israeli deal with the Resistance, His Eminence said: There is a corpse called Lahd's militia. It is finished. It is in the past. What remains are some dregs that must be put on trial. They cannot be forgiven just because the Zionists have removed their cover. You cannot equate the agents with the Resistance, which will not make deals except on the understanding that it is the one that keeps the country's dignity and pride.

The Hizballah secretary general declared that Israel's withdrawal from any part of the Lebanese territories is not an act of generosity but proof that the Israelis cannot remain on our land.

He said: This is a great victory and an important achievement by the Resistance.

His Eminence stated that the residents of the border strip, both Christians and Muslims, are our good people. He said that the Resistance force that fought to bring them back into the Lebanese fold is part of them and is for them.

Nasrallah continued: The Resistance guarantees brotherhood and coexistence. It wants everyone to live in dignity.

Forest Fires Sweep North; Syrian Aid Requested

*NC2906183595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 29 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The wave of fires that have been flaring up in various Lebanese regions since yesterday has spread today as a result of the rise in temperatures. Some of them threaten homes. There are also some reports that efforts by the civil defense units, internal security forces, and Lebanese Army have failed

because of high winds, rough terrain, and difficulties in getting to those areas.

These fires have prompted Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel al-Murr to discuss the matter with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, asking him for permission to ask for help from Syrian helicopters to put out the fires. Minister al-Murr said the cause of these fires is the heat wave currently attacking Lebanon. He confirmed that the civil defense units are working very hard but so far have not been able to put out the fires. Minister al-Murr has expressed fears that the fires will spread into the villages. While he drew attention to the fact that Syria has sent fire engines, Minister al-Murr confirmed that he had asked them to send helicopters to put out the fires, since the civil defense fire brigades cannot reach those areas.

This evening, we learned that the fire in the village of al-Qubayyat-Akkar has started up again and that the utmost efforts by the civil defense units, internal security forces, and the Lebanese Army to stop it from spreading have failed. Civil defense sources report that the wind is pushing the fire toward the village of al-Qatlabah, where two fire engines have been brought in from Zgharta and Akkar to fight it.

The same sources say that the civil defense department in Beirut has been contacted to secure more modern fire fighting equipment and asked about the possibility of using aircraft to extinguish the fire, which has spread over a 3-sq-km area. We also have reports that a recruit in the Lebanese Army's 10th Brigade, Rashid 'Ammar, broke his leg while fighting the fires. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Mikha'il al-Dahir's approach to officials in the Interior Ministry and the Civil Defense Department resulted in securing two fire engines from the fire brigade in Homs.

A huge fire flared up today at the Abu-'Ali traffic circle at the northern side of Tripoli. It devoured large areas of gardens. The fire spread to houses in the town, prompting citizens to flee. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar': 'No Apparent Progress' in Talks With Israel

AU3006171595 Paris AFP in English
1648 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, June 30 (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said here Friday [30 June] there had been no apparent progress in Syria-Israel negotiations staged in Washington this week, but that the talks would continue.

Speaking after talks with French President Jacques Chirac, al-Shar' refused to comment on the detail of three days of negotiations that ended in Washington Thursday between Israeli and Syrian military delegations.

The talks dealt with security arrangements after an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Al-Shar' said the Washington negotiations between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff were "serious and conducted in depth. The American involvement was satisfactory, as far as we are concerned.

"There is no apparent result so far, but we cannot pre-judge the talks before we assess the whole discussions that have taken place after the return to Damascus of Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat Shihabi," al-Shar' said.

Discusses Peace Over Phone With Clinton

JN0107052895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton at 2300 last night.

The conversation dealt with the Middle East peace process.

Commentary: 'Total' Withdrawal 'Vital' to Peace

JN3006155595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The Syrian-Israeli military talks, held in Washington under the auspices and with the participation of the United States, cannot be judged before the assessment of the results at the highest levels. The U.S. secretary of state considered the talks an important step, although the gap between the two sides was still wide and needed more time and effort. This is because the security arrangements are closely linked with Israel's withdrawal to the lines that existed before June 1967.

Here, we can say that the uproar being raised by extremists in Israel over the existence of an Israeli military document on a total withdrawal from the Golan is absolutely meaningless. Peace with Syria is linked to a total withdrawal. Syria would not have taken part in any talks if not for several facts, foremost of which are the approved bases of the peace process, which led to the convening of the Madrid conference. These bases are clear and frank and call for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the exchange of land for peace, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Proceeding from this principle, we can say that Syria is holding negotiations in light of the international resolutions and the principle of land for peace. These negotiations are taking place under the auspices and with the actual participation of the United States, which has launched the peace initiative, offered assurances about the implementation of the international resolutions, and played the role of a fair and effective partner.

Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan and returning the occupation forces to the 4 June 1967 lines are natural for those who want peace with Syria and the Arabs because unless peace is achieved with Syria, there will be no peace with the Arabs. Events have proved that Syria is the key to the region, and its importance and its political role exceed its geographic borders to cover the region. Syria has never relinquished any Arab rights, has never entered into a bargain over any Arab land, and has never placed its regional interests above pan-Arab ones. Therefore, Syria has won the confidence of the nation and the support of the Arab people in their different countries and it will never relinquish that confidence.

It has become clear inside and outside Israel that peace with Syria is extremely vital and that in order to achieve such a peace, a total withdrawal should be carried out and the Golan should be returned to its people. The principle of equitability [takafu'] should be adopted in any security arrangements that will follow the withdrawal. Gaps are still separating the two positions because of Israel's attempts to make security arrangements at the expense of Syria's security. Such a defect is categorically rejected by Syria because security is supposed to be even [muta'adil] and equal [mutasawi]. Syria has repeatedly asserted that there will be no peace without dignity, and in order to respect Syria's dignity, Israel should withdraw all its forces and pursue the principle of equitability in any ensuing security situation.

Nobody doubts Syria's sincerity toward the cause of peace. Hence, we remind that Syria respects its word, its pledges, and its charters and wants to make peace hon-

orably just as it fought honorably. Syria has announced that the Golan will never be a subject of bargaining, as the case had been throughout the previous years of talks. Syria has linked between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process because it is seeking an Israeli withdrawal from both southern Lebanon and the Golan. This does not mean a Syrian condition but a response to the Security Council's resolutions, to the bases of the peace process, and to the rights of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples. Israel's withdrawal is natural but continued occupation is abnormal, particularly at a time when the involved parties are seeking just and comprehensive peace.

Paper: Military Talks Subject to 'In-Depth' Appraisal

JN0107070395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Golan: A Militant March," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the militant solidarity of our kinfolk in the occupied Syrian Golan with the Palestinian Arab people. The paper notes that the population of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights will head today to the Red Cross headquarters in Jerusalem to join the sit-in held by the families of detainees to show solidarity with them.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that this militant decision is in line with the known nationalist and pan-Arab history of our kinfolk in the Golan. He who resists the occupation of the Golan supports the Palestinian intifadah and its prisoners in Israeli jails.

AL-THAWRAH recalls our Golan kinfolk's historical solidarity. It says that a review of that history proves the existence of daily militant relations with the population of the occupied West Bank and Gaza based on the unity of destiny in confronting the occupation. Besides, the Golan population take part in the annual land day celebrations in occupied Galilee as an expression of pan-Arab militant cohesion. They also extended aid to the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: All that is an indication of our people's genuineness and eagerness to offer sacrifices for the sake of their nation, liberate their territory, adhere to their land and identity, and show absolute cohesion with the brethren in their struggle and resistance to the occupation. How expressive leader al-Asad was when he said of the Golan population: Neither we nor our children in the Golan have any future anxiety, for nobody can be removed from his roots, and no tree with roots digging deep into fertile soil can wither.

Under the headline "Withdrawal and Equitable [mutakafi] Security," TISHRIN says: Occupation is occupation, whether it covers the entire Golan or a small part of it. Syria made it clear on every occasion that it will not relinquish one iota of its soil or one inch of its territory. Syria also made it clear that its sovereignty over the Golan will never be subject to bargaining or negotiations.

TISHRIN says: Therefore, Syria proceeded from two basic conditions, without which it is impossible to achieve the desired just peace. Those two conditions are full Israeli withdrawal and equitable security arrangements. If Israel will attain peace in return for its withdrawal from the Golan, there must be no attempt to contain this withdrawal through arrangements disrupting Syria's security. Syria's basic condition was and will remain equitability in any security arrangements to be reached. It should be indicated that Israel is the party insisting on security arrangements and that Syria considers a just peace the best guarantee for security.

TISHRIN says that Syria agreed to discuss security arrangements on condition that they be equitable and equal [mutasawiyah] on both sides of the June 1967 line. The Israelis, the paper continues, as well as the entire world, know that Syria has one word and it earnestly respects its word.

TISHRIN says: The Washington military talks will definitely be subject to an in-depth assessment. In light of this assessment, it will be possible for Syria to discuss the next step.

TISHRIN says that Israel demanded confidence building measures at a time when it is supposed to be the party initiating measures to improve the negotiatory climate by making an explicit and unambiguous announcement that it is fully ready to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel's full withdrawal is an axiom for whoever wants peace. [words indistinct] withdrawal means nothing but returning the region to the atmosphere of tension and conflict.

Commentary Demands Israel Move From 'Rhetoric' to 'Action'

JN0107152695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria has repeatedly said that achieving peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks must be based on security council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. On its part, Syria

offered all that it takes to help achieve the desired objective of the peace process. Syria's positions, actions, and demands do not go beyond being a response to international legitimacy resolutions and the bases of right, justice, and comprehensiveness. Syria is not posing conditions that are outside the framework of peace and outside hopes for achieving security and stability in the region based on the willpower of the international community and on inevitable facts and requirements. This is in order to say that what has been achieved is a just and comprehensive peace in which territories and rights are restored to their owners in a way that guarantees the interests and dignities of all.

Meanwhile, Israel has always sought to achieve temporary gains in the spirit of encroaching on the territories and rights of others, violating the security of others, and coveting for imposing a military, economic, political, and cultural hegemony on the region based on the standard of its covetousness.

From this premise, the Israeli negotiating mentality continues to say one thing and do something else. This is in addition to the fact that Israel is clinging to false concepts of security which see a full withdrawal as a threat to Israel's security. Thus, Israel came out with the conclusion that it cannot achieve security without continuing to occupy part of Syria's territories, encroaching on Lebanon's territories, and so forth, in terms of issues that contradict the essence of peace.

Not a single observer can ignore the validity of the Syrian argument and the solidity of the Syrian stand and its soundness and harmony with international legitimacy, the spirit of peace, security council resolutions, and the U.S. land-for-peace initiative. Moreover, not a single observer or expert can ignore the fact that geography can no longer make security. This is in addition to the fact that Syrian territories are not under the disposal of Israel, which is using a weak pretext to keep the territories or undermine sovereignty. This contradicts the essence of the full peace-for- full withdrawal principle, as well as historical facts and events. All observers and followers of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict know that Syria, Lebanon, as well as the Arabs are victims of the Israeli aggression. They also know that Syria and Lebanon are the ones that need security guarantees in the face of Israel, which is armed to the teeth with the most sophisticated weapons, not to mention that the United States itself is offering Israel guarantees for the present and the future to maintain the Israeli military edge.

Peace cannot be built on outright fallacies. Israel is the one that should offer guarantees. We demand Israel offer something to confirm its good intentions. The Arabs

have never been aggressors and they are not demanding anything more than their own territories, rights, and sovereignty.

Continuing to disregard the facts of peace and its basic requirements, especially the principle of full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, is to disregard the few developments which provided a cautiously positive climate.

Israel's continuation of this policy does not serve peace and does not lead to it despite the extensive efforts exerted by the full partner and sponsor of the peace process. However, if Israel is really serious about peace, then the road is clear and the opportunity is still available. This is true provided that Israel returns to the basis and principles of the peace process, adheres to what has been agreed on in terms of the principles for the framework of security arrangements that maintain the principles of equality [al-tasawi], equitability [al-takafau'], and parallelism [al- tawazi] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borderline, and moves quickly from rhetoric to action and implementation formulas that are in line with the essence of peace.

As U.S. officials have said, obstacle still need much effort. However, effort alone will be useless unless Israel makes a clear and frank decision and works on the grounds to achieve the peace of justice and comprehensiveness and what that means in terms of objective requirements, foremost of which is full withdrawal.

Press Views Israeli Statements on Military Talks

JN0207103695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH says that it is too early to assess the results of the Washington military talks, which were concluded two days ago. The paper adds: However, based on Israeli statements, especially those by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, who said that no understanding was reached on the issues that were raised, it can be said that the talks did not arrive at any tangible results. Meanwhile, it should be stressed that what the Israeli side may view as essential and substantive and try to raise and place at the top of priorities at the negotiating table may not be so from a logical point of view and within the general framework and perspective of just and comprehensive peace. What Israel may raise could be marginal and far removed from the issues constituting the core of regional conflict and settlement.

AL-THAWRAH says: Through the statements made by Israeli officials and their media, one can conclude

that all that Israel proposed, raised, and tried to dictate in the course of the talks was aimed at evading peace requirements, reaching conclusions by working in reverse order, and attempting to reap the fruits of peace and achieve normalization, open borders, etcetera without an overt and explicit commitment and without discussing the mechanism of withdrawal and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula. However, logic dictates that such steps should come after peace is established.

TISHRIN today comments on Syria's central and positive role in the peace process. It stresses that it is impossible to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Syria or in isolation of its constants, stands, and principles. The paper says that peace with Syria must be just and comprehensive because Syria views matters from an objective and logical perspective proceeding from the importance of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and commitment to the bases of right, justice, balance, and equitability.

TISHRIN remarks that Syria positively adheres to the pillars of just and comprehensive peace and is extremely eager to achieve a breakthrough in the peace process. The paper adds: Syria has made every effort to place the peace process on its right track. It spared no effort to keep the peace process going, ensure its success, and rescue it from the attempts to divert it from its natural course. Therefore, the paper says, when Syria repeatedly stresses that peace is its strategic option, it at the same time asserts that peace can only be achieved through two conditions: Ending the Israeli occupation of the entire Golan and the return of the Israeli troops to the 4 June 1967 lines and through balanced [mutawazinah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides after the total Israeli withdrawal.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: To arrive at the desired peace, Syria has been eager to effectively and positively take part in the Washington talks on both political and military levels. Syria will continue to act with such eagerness, adhering to the principles and bases of the peace process and to just and comprehensive peace. Syria will never bargain over an iota of its national soil and will never budge from its national and pan-Arab right to restore the Golan to its people and to the motherland, Syria.

AL-BA'TH discusses the Syrian and Israeli positions in light of the Washington talks. It says that Syria's stand is serious and committed to the peace initiative and its bases. Syria has responded to all international efforts to

boost the peace process, offering many opportunities to render those efforts successful.

AL-BA'TH says that Syria's response to those efforts and commitment to the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in the region have never been prompted by weakness or abandonment of the principles or requirements of peace. Syria's response has been based on its acceptance of an initiative with clear principles and assurances which led to the Madrid conference. Syria's response has been first and foremost based on a strategic option and on faith in the full restoration of legitimate rights to their owners. Israel's position, however, from the outset, has been based on an apparent acceptance of the peace initiative on the one hand and on practical obstacles accompanying all rounds of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks on the other, proceeding from a narrow-minded policy, the core of which is looking for separate deals and achieving as many gains as possible at the expense of the other party.

AL-BA'TH refers to the endless series of Israeli obstacles to the peace initiative, ranging from proposing deals following the example of the Oslo and Wadi al-'Araba agreements, demanding that the negotiations be upgraded, up to fabricating pretexts concerning security arrangements.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says that when Syria decided to wage the peace battle it made this decision in defense of the supreme Arab interests and to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that restores rights to their legitimate owners.

Commentary Urges Israel To Stop 'Wasting' Time
JN0207145095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 2 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Having a quick look at the way Israel deals with the peace process and its ramifications, including the other tracks where Israel thought it had made an accomplishment, one concludes that Israel is wasting much time on playing with words and digression in negotiations. This renders Israeli officials' claims about the importance of time on all tracks mere soap bubbles that will soon vanish. We do not want to go into the details of the agreements which it [Israel] concluded — agreements that shortly after they were signed and celebrated entered a dark and narrow tunnel in which the parties desperately groped for light.

We say that we do not want to go into such details. However, we want to point out the many opportunities that were made available — with Syria's help — but

which were wasted owing to the Israeli positions, which, it is clear, are highly influenced by hesitation and fear from peace. Because of their feeling that they do not have sufficient time, and because they are embarrassed in front of the whole world, and given their well-known hesitation, the Israelis blame others, as if Syria is the party that occupies land and possesses both legal and illegal sophisticated weaponry and as if it is the party that squanders opportunities, causes negotiations to enter tunnels, and engages the parties in a whirligig of texts and controversial explanations.

If the Israelis were serious about utilizing time and opportunities, then three and a half years should be more than enough to achieve peace and usher in an era of a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Bridging the gaps, which the Israelis are talking about, cannot be realized through altercations and aimless arguments but rather through taking positions and action and shouldering responsibilities, no matter how great, and implementing resolutions, no matter how difficult,

if we were to presume that the decision to withdraw from the lands of others, which were occupied by force, is a difficult one as they say.

Why do the Israelis waste time while they need it more than any other party? Why do they exhaust the U.S. administration — which is aware of facts and realities and hence can play a role and take a position — with opinions and counter-opinions? President Bill Clinton had earlier stated that the security of any party cannot be realized at the expense of the other party. Herein lies the solution and this is the springboard from which the peace process can proceed forward on the right track which will lead it to the goal for which it was launched.

When the Israeli negotiator accepts this conviction, which the whole world supports, then he will clearly see the road and the caravans of peace approaching the region. Despite the emergence of some positive signs thus far, the [Israeli] policy of throwing dust in the eyes is still applied.

Afghanistan

Taleban: No Decision on Alliance With Dostam

LD3006103795 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0929 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — No decision has been taken yet by the Afghan religious student militia known as Taleban on formation of an alliance with the Islamic National Movement against the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Taleban spokesman Abdulmannan Niazi [name as received] announced.

Niazi however confirmed that the Taleban had so far held three rounds of informal talks with representatives of the Islamic National Movement, led by General Dostam. He did not give more information on the contents of the talks or whether the negotiations would continue in the future.

The Taleban came into prominence last year after capturing ten provinces of Afghanistan within a relatively short period of time. Despite its claim that it wants to restore peace and tranquility to Afghanistan, the Taleban actually fanned the flames of war in Afghanistan.

The popularity rating of Taleban has sharply decreased in recent months after its forces suffered heavy defeats in confrontation with Afghan Government troops. Earlier, Taleban had announced that it would not negotiate with any Afghan political or military groups.

Dostam Aircraft Bombard Kabul Residential Areas

LD2906180695 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*
in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night the city of Kabul came under criminal air attack by the militia.

Security sources report to BAKHTAR that at around 0100 last night the militia's aircraft, taking advantage of the darkness and the timing of international flight schedules, flew over Kabul and bombarded the residential areas of Karta-e Sakhi [east of Kabul]. Fortunately, no loss of life has been reported.

The country's air force followed the militia's aircraft, but the aircraft managed to escape because the timing coincided with the scheduled flight of a passenger plane. The Dostam militia are thus taking advantage of international flight schedules and cover of darkness, threatening the peace of the night. The source added: The forces of the Islamic Army have the capability to safeguard Kabul's airspace from any kind of external or internal threat from the air.

Rabbani Asks Pasha'i Heads for Support

LD2806205595 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*
in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning, President Borhanoddin Rabbani met at Golkhana Palace a number of chiefs, Jehadi commanders, ulema, clergymen, and representatives of Kohbandha district, Kapisa Province.

The presidential press office reports to BAKHTAR that at the start of the meeting esteemed Gholam Nabi, director of education and training of Kapisa, spoke on behalf of others and thanked the esteemed president for meeting the representatives of the Pasha'i nationality living in Kohbandha district, Kapisa Province. [passage omitted].

Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani then spoke and said:

The heroic struggles of the people of Kapisa and Kohbandha district during the Jihad period, especially in foiling the savage Russians' attack, have a special place in the history of Afghanistan. Obviously, the Muslim and brave people of Pasha'i were living in difficult conditions prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution. Despite all difficulties, they have heroically defended the religion and their homeland and did not spare any effort on this sacred path.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the ground has been prepared for the Islamic State to pay attention to the living conditions and to remove their difficulties. I am confident that by the passing of time and by further restoration of peace and security, the ground will be prepared for the improvement of socio-economic living conditions, not only for the fraternal Pasha'i nationality, but for all other heroic and Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

I hope you — fraternal Pasha'i nationality — together with all other fraternal nationalities of Afghanistan, would assist the Islamic State in removing the existing difficulties and in foiling the conspiracies.

At the end of the meeting, Rabbani issued necessary instructions to the respective officials regarding the removal of difficulties raised in the area of mosques' renovation, construction of schools and bridges, digging of deep wells, and other needs of the people in Kohbandha district.

Rabbani Decree Approves Budget for 1995

LD2906183995 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network*
in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of

Afghanistan, has issued a decree approving Council of Ministers Resolution No. 969 dated 20 June regarding the expenditure budget of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for 1374 [year beginning 21 March 1995].

The presidential press office has told BAKHTAR that the decree instructs the Council of Ministers to supervise the implementation of the relevant decree regarding the approval of the budget and to report in detail to the presidential office on the implementation of the budget for 1374.

EU Pledges To Extend Economic Assistance

LD2706183195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The European Union [EU] is to assist the Islamic State of Afghanistan with foodstuffs, resettlement of refugees, and electricity supply to Kabul. [passage omitted]

At this meeting the deputy minister of planning spoke about the difficulties facing Kabul citizens in the area of electricity. The chairman of the EU expressed the readiness of his respective union to assist the resupply of electricity to Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar, Maydan, and the surrounding areas of Kabul Province.

Bangladesh

President Receives Iranian Visitor; Talks Held

BK0307063995 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali Larijani, president of the Iranian broadcasting [corporation] and leader of the Iranian delegation, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the President House today. During talks, President Biswas said that the close and friendly relations between the two countries are (?based on) their common religious faith, culture, and history. 'Ali Larijani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, said that the close relations between the two countries can be utilized to expand their ties in economic and cultural fields. He conveyed the Iranian president's good wishes to President Biswas. Reciprocating, President Biswas conveyed his sincere greetings to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and invited him to visit Bangladesh at his convenience.

Formal talks between Bangladesh and Iran were held in Dhaka today. Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam led the Bangladeshi side, while the Iranian side was led by 'Ali Larijani, president of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. During the talks, Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam said that considerable scope exists for expanding the exist-

ing cooperation and friendship between Bangladesh and Iran in the mutual interest of their brotherly people. He said that Bangladesh and Iran enjoy very close relations based on common religion and culture and that we attach great importance to relations with Iran. The information minister said that cooperation between the two countries will be further expanded in radio, television, trade and commerce, and economic spheres, adding that the two countries can work together for the welfare of the Islamic world. Islam proposed holding a trade fair in the two countries to expand their cooperation in the trade sector. Dr. Larijani expressed Iran's keen interest in establishing close cooperation among Islamic countries in view of the present geopolitical situation in the world. He said that due to their common cultural heritage and values, Iran considers Bangladesh an important brotherly country. The relation between the two countries can be further expanded by cultural and media exchanges between the two countries and by enhancing their trade and economic ties.

Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of information. Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam, and Dr. 'Ali Larijani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, signed the agreement in Dhaka today. The agreement provides that the two sides will encourage exchange of radio and television programs in the sphere of information, art, science, music and folk music to promote their mutual understanding and (?propagate) the artistic information of their respective people.

India

BJP Welcomes U.S. Congress Rejection of Bill

BK3006130395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the U.S. Congress turning down the cut motion to the foreign appropriations bill to deny India aid on grounds of human rights violation. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, told newsmen in New Delhi that the rejection of the motion clearly proves that India has increased its transparency on Kashmir.

Envoy to U.S. 'Grateful'

BK3006161095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] India has welcomed the rejection by the U.S. Congress of the amendment moved by Mr. Dan Burton to the foreign operations appropriation bill. The Indian ambassador to the United States,

Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, said he was particularly grateful that the members of the Congress appreciated India's point of view and the manner in which the two countries have been building their bilateral relationship. [passage omitted]

Janata Dal Figure Criticizes CNN Agreement

BK3006163095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doordarshan [Indian television] and the Cable News Network, CNN International, of America will launch a 24-hour news channel in India from tomorrow. An agreement on this was signed in New Delhi this morning. The satellite channel will be available to Indian viewers through INSAT-2B. Initially, Doordarshan will give programs for one and half hours and the rest will come from CNN.

Senior Janata Dal leader and former information and broadcasting minister Mr. I.K. Gujral has criticized the tie-up between Doordarshan and CNN. In a press statement, he said the agreement will facilitate the entry of foreign media into our country.

Editorial Views Wisner's Remarks on Kashmir

BK0107120695 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 29 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Background of the American Revelation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is rather amazing that U.S. Ambassador Wisner had to make a long trip to Kashmir to understand what India has been harping on for years. It is difficult to assess whether it is a part of U.S. diplomacy's new cunning move or a genuine realization, but the United States also now seems to accept the fact that the solution to the Kashmir tangle can be found only through India and Pakistan negotiating directly. Which problems has American diplomacy not created so far concerning the Kashmir problem? That Kashmir is purely a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan has thus far been anathema to the United States, an idea it refused to entertain even remotely. All along it continued to insist that Kashmiri people should also represent one party in the negotiations and without taking them into confidence no lasting solution to the Kashmir problem could be found. The issue was twisted to such an extent that even the merger of Kashmir with India was reckoned as doubtful and disputed, that too, with such finesse as if any state's merger with India could be considered disputed. When India tried to impress upon the United States its arguments, Pakistan was provoked into vehemently raising the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir at various fora

of the United Nations, failing which the proposal of U.S. mediation was raised through back door, which Pakistan readily accepted to create quite a predicament for India. All these efforts were made to put India into an embarrassing situation.

However, now Mr. Wisner seems to be getting flooded with many a great idea emerging simultaneously. Not only is he branding Kashmir as a purely bilateral issue, all of a sudden he has started elucidating on the virtues of the Simla Accord. However, his most engrossing remark is the one he made in the context of the Kashmir issue, saying that U.S. mediation has no role to play in it. No doubt all these revelations are true, albeit a bit amazing by their fast pace of realization. But can we attribute Mr. Wisner's sudden realization about the Kashmir situation to his recently concluded Kashmir Valley visit? Most certainly there has been a distinct change in the U.S. attitude toward Kashmir of late. It appears as if the Clinton administration is finding the Indian situation of Kashmir more favorable to its interests. However, lest this change in the U.S. attitude should lead us Indians into the mistaken belief that the United States has now accepted the Indian view of the Kashmir situation, it is high time to forewarn them that if the U.S. stance changes, it will be for two reasons. First, if India adopts a firm policy regarding Kashmir, the United States will think 10 times before forming any anti-India belief. The second reason may be the American selfish interest itself, which might force the United States to affect a change in its belief. Nevertheless the present change in the U.S. stance can be fully analyzed. Before doing so, it is essential to draw Pakistan's attention to one remark made by Mr. Wisner. He says that if Israel and England and Ireland can resolve their disputes by mutual negotiations, why can't India and Pakistan do so? Of course they can, and this has been the very basis of India's argument. But shouldn't the United States use its constructive influence on Pakistan to make it heed this argument and resolve the dispute once for all?

Editorial Views Cost of U.S. 'Obsession With Iran'

BK2906051295 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jun 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Think it Over, Sam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Latest reports from the United States speak of new intelligence collected by the Central Intelligence Agency about Chinese supply of components and guidance systems for missiles to Iran and Pakistan. That will hardly cause any surprise to people of this country. The report without being denied has been sought to be played down by the U.S. official

spokesman. The charges made in Britain about covert supply of arms and equipment to Iran and Iraq, contravening policies declared in Parliament, the experience of the Iran-Contra scandal in which the highest authorities in the U.S. flouted the law of the land and the delays in presidential certification for three years on Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons to enable it to benefit under Pressler amendment make it quite clear that covert arms supplies by major powers is a fact of life which cannot be ignored by security planners in India. China does not have the legislative constraints the U.S. and Britain have and is better placed to use arms supplies, particularly covert arms supplies, as instruments of policy. Past links between China and Pakistan in nuclear and missile fields are common knowledge and there are no valid reasons to presume that these policies will change unless the Chinese themselves conclude they no longer serve their interests. There is no evidence to indicate that they have reached such a conclusion in spite of further improvements in India-China relations.

A go-stop-go policy in regard to such supplies of nuclear and missile technologies gives the Chinese leverage in international relations in strategic areas of the world. Pakistan and Iran are located in strategic areas. China has already indicated that it will not stop dealing with Iran on civil nuclear technology. The work on the plutonium production reactor at Khushub in Pakistan is yet another signal from China. Given all this, it is not unnatural for India to be puzzled by the lack of rationality in the U.S. demand that this country should stop producing and deploying Prithvi missile on the ground it would destabilise the situation. The harsh fact happens to be that India has to produce and deploy missiles to stabilise a situation which had been destabilised over the years by deployment of missiles in China, the former Soviet republics Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the adjacent countries. The U.S. obsession with Iran and its yielding to the blackmail of Pakistan threatening to move closer to Iran make it very vulnerable to Chinese pressure in the area obtained through supply of components and guidance systems of missiles to these countries. The U.S. has to think afresh on its strategy in this area including its irrational demand on India dropping deployment of the Prithvi missile policies.

Japan Pledges \$1.4 Billion in Assistance

BK2906144795 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0830 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Japan has pledged a record \$1.4 billion assistance to India at the ongoing India Development Forum meeting in Paris. The pledge representing an increase of 20 percent over last year's

aid puts Japan as the single largest bilateral official donor to India for the eighth year in running. Tokyo's aid package to India last year amounted to 52 percent of Japan's bilateral aid and 20 percent of the total aid commitments made at the forum meeting last June.

India's achievements and efforts in universal primary education were praised at the India Development Forum, IDF, in Paris. During a presentation on the subject at the ongoing IDF meeting, it was told that a significant outcome of the economic reforms process has been the increased allocation for social sectors, including education. The central government's plan outlay on education has increased from 977 crore rupees [Rs.] in 1991-92 to Rs.1,825 crore in 1995-96. Primary and adult education have received a proportionately higher share of the increased allocation. The presentation pointed out that the prime minister has announced that the public investment on education will be raised from the present level of 3.4 percent of GNP to 6 percent by the turn of the century. Our correspondent reports that it was for the first time that a presentation on education was made by the government at the India Development Forum.

Indo-British Group To Build New Bombay Airport

BK2706145695 *Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES*
in English 22 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay 21 Jun — A consortium of Indo-British companies has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra state government to build a new international airport for Bombay.

While the Indian side is represented by the Hinduja group, the British side comprises Mott MacDonald, Speedwing (a British Airways subsidiary), UK's Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA), and Schipol Management Services (a part of Amsterdam's Schipol airport).

The MoU is the piece of business that came out of the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Manohar Joshi's ongoing visit to the United Kingdom, and the signing ceremony at the Hinduja house in London was attended by both the chief minister and the British minister for trade, Mr Richard Needham.

Among the others present on the occasion were the state chief secretary and the industries secretary and the Indian high commissioner to the UK Mr L N Singhvi.

The plan for the second airport is part of the Bombay infrastructure initiative sponsored by the Indo-British partnership.

The new international airport is likely to be located across the harbour and will be linked to the city through a cross harbour link roadway.

Sources say one of the main reasons why the government is looking towards a new international airport is the lack of expansion facilities at the Sahar International Airport.

Sahar is almost saturated in terms of parking place and with more several new airlines which are putting Bombay on the flight map.

Not only is the airport hemmed in by highly populated suburbs, there is also a question of environment pollution in case there is an extension.

Moreover, a second international airport is also a common feature in many of the major international cities with a high air traffic.

The Indian Government has recently decided to privatise airports and the Tatas have applied to set up an international airport at Bangalore. The project, is, however, yet to take off.

The consortium for the Bombay airport will shortly commission a techno-economic feasibility report for the project and begin working on drawing up the financial parameters as well.

Deficit Recorded in Border Trade With Burma

*BK3006161995 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English
27 Jun 95 p 7*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As India steps up export of non-basmati rice to Bangladesh, fears over a domestic shortage seem a natural corollary. A viable alternative to ease the situation may be greater India-Myanmar [Burma] land border trade, through the newly opened north-eastern land border at Moreh in Manipur.

The Moreh land border, formally opened in April by the Union Commerce Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, has now assumed tremendous significance considering the fact that the trade balance is now tilted heavily in favour of Myanmar.

Following official talks with Myanmar authorities early this year at Tamul and Imphal led by the joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Ashoke Jha, and the subsequent visit by Mr. Chidambaram, border trade through this point has been officially opened from April 12, 1995.

The major focus of the talks was in areas such as banking arrangements, immigration procedures, customs and inspection arrangements, trading norms and timings of border trade.

Despite being a porous and sensitive border with heightened insurgency activities, especially on the Indian side, the two-way trade between India and Myanmar through Moreh and Champai could yield trade worth Rs [rupee]

125 crores in 1995-96, according to a recent study by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). The FIEO study has indicated that rice could form the biggest chunk of India's import basket from this land border route.

The study has drawn attention to India's high negative trade balance with Myanmar which, in 1993-94, was to the tune of Rs. 313 crores with imports at Rs. 378 crores and exports at a mere Rs. 65 crores, and called for corrective action. The negative balance in 1991-92 was Rs. 116 crores, Rs. 315 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 328 crores in 1994-95.

The two-way trade in 1994-95 was at Rs. 464 crores. In the last fiscal, India imported goods from Myanmar mostly pulses, wood and wood products, to the tune of Rs. 396 crores against an export of Rs. 68 crores, mainly of items such as primary and semi-finished iron and steel, steel bar rods, glass/glassware/ceramics, manufactures of metals and miscellaneous processed items.

Many Indian companies have already submitted specific proposals in the mining, forestry and automotive sectors and the potential for establishing joint ventures has been assessed by both sides.

On the banking side, border trade at Moreh would be serviced by United Bank of India and at Champai by the SBI [State Bank of India]. A payment system which included the ACU [Asian Currency Unit] mechanism, US dollar and agency arrangements between the banks of the two countries have been found acceptable to both sides.

The Myanmar authorities have nominated Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank to handle trade-related transactions on the Myanmar side.

As for the trade options, it could be either through a letter of credit, that is documentary transactions, counter trade or trade by small merchants doing business across the border.

The timings of the border trade, as agreed upon by both sides, are as follows: 5-00a.m. to 5-00 p.m. IST [India Standard Time] corresponding to 6.00 and 6-00 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time [MST]. The customs clearance will be from 8-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. IST and from Myanmar side 9-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. MST.

Iran

Victory-6 Naval Maneuvers Begin in Persian Gulf

LD0307113195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The preliminary stage of the massive Victory-6 maneuvers began this morning in the second naval district of Bushehr in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

[Unidentified correspondent] In these maneuvers, which have begun on the anniversary of the downing of the Islamic Republic of Iran's airbus by the American warship Vincennes, the naval forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], supported by ground and air forces and by the Basij resistance force, will be putting their combat and defense capabilities to the test.

During the first stage of the eight-day Victory-6 land and sea maneuvers, matters relating to briefing the forces, carrying out final tests on the communications equipment and facilities, and deploying the warships, frigates, naval marines, and rangers are now taking place.

Also during this stage of the maneuvers, operations for the assembling of forces on the beach, the holding of various exercises prior to putting to sea, dealing with injuries from chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks, carrying out nonactive [gheyr-ame] defense, enabling scuba divers to undertake helicopter jumps, sending Persian, Latin, and flag and torchlight morse code messages, and undertaking anticommando and antiwater-stronghold operations on jetties, magnetic antimine operations by helicopters, and amphibious assaults will be carried out.

These maneuvers will be taking place in an area of 14,000 square miles in the northern Persian Gulf. In the course of the maneuvers, underwater, surface, and air naval defense capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, using the latest logistic achievements, will be displayed in the course of four stages and 186 operations.

Minister Calls U.S. 'International Terrorist'

LD3006104495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Akbar Torkan, minister of roads and transport [and former minister of defense and armed forces logistics], strongly criticized the international forums for their inaction and silence concerning the criminal attack by the U.S. warship Vincennes against

a passenger airplane belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which caused the martyrdom of more than 290 of those on board [on 3 July 1988].

Speaking before the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran today and on the occasion of the anniversary of the incident, Mr. Torkan explained the dimensions of the tragedy and said that the U.S. Government made contradictory remarks in a bid to distort the facts of the incident. He said that, following an assessment of this criminal act committed by America, the International Civil Aviation Organization unfortunately limited its reaction to a mere expression of regret about it.

Our country's minister of roads and transport described the U.S. Government as an international terrorist and asked: How can the White House, which does not refrain from attacking a passenger airline and the killing of men and women, old and young, accuse the nations who are defending their honor, integrity, and territory of being terrorists?

Commentary on U.S. Halting Nuclear Cooperation

LD0107115595 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0945 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Efforts by the U.S. delegation taking part in the joint Russian-U.S. economic commission in order to make Moscow stop nuclear cooperation with Iran have failed once again. Speaking on this subject, a spokesman of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry has announced: Moscow continues to stand by its position. It will be impossible to review once again the nuclear cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia.

Political observers believe this is another failure in America's policy, which is trying to put pressure on Russia and other countries to isolate Iran. But America's repeated failures in this policy has gradually put the U.S. Administration itself into a type of isolation. U.S. policies on Iran have reached a dead end. [passage omitted]

America's failure to make Russia stop selling nuclear power stations to Iran stems from the fact that America has been unable to prove with tangible documents and evidence its allegations on Iran's efforts to gain nuclear weapons. In fact, during the G-7 summit in Halifax, Canada, two weeks ago, it was decided that as soon as any evidence showing Iran's intention to produce nuclear weapons was provided, other countries — including Russia — would immediately stop their cooperation with Iran. Obviously, if any such evidence existed, it would have been presented by the U.S. delegation at the Halifax summit.

With America's latest failure to prove its allegations during the talks in Russia, this fact has been proved once again: America, apart from propaganda, cannot prove its allegations and accusations against Iran.

Commentary Views Purpose of Gore's Trip to Moscow

LD2906221795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Vice President Al Gore arrived Wednesday 28 June in Moscow to take part in the fifth joint commission on U.S.-Russian ties. According to informed sources, the issue of Iranian-Russian cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy is likely to dominate the two countries' discussions. The U.S. had lately announced that Russia had agreed to reduce its cooperation with Iran. But this news was later denied by the Russian Foreign Ministry. It seems that Al Gore intends to achieve what Clinton was after in his visit to Moscow two months ago. Political experts, however, maintain that Al Gore will return to his country emptyhanded, just the way Clinton did. Moscow apparently prefers to show Washington that it is no longer to eager to carry out U.S. policies in exchange for more financial aid to the country.

Within the recent years, as a large number of problems have emerged in U.S.-Russian ties, Moscow is tilting more and more towards the eastern countries. The expansion of Moscow-Beijing relations, for instance, can be viewed in the same line. Russian political analysts say that America, too, is seeking to strain Russia by upgrading its relations with the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. One cannot ignore the reality that after the end of the Cold War ties between Washington and Moscow have entered a new phase basically incomparable with the past. This matter is noteworthy specially due to the fluctuations which have existed over the past three years.

Given the existing realities in U.S.-Russian relations, it can be said that the visit of U.S. Vice President Al Gore to Moscow under the present circumstances would be very difficult and crucial for both sides. The joint commission on economic cooperation is evidently under the influence of the two countries' political differences in various spheres such as Moscow-Tehran ties, NATO's eastward expansion, and, finally, the Chechen issue and Moscow's attitude toward it.

The main goal of Al Gore's visit to Moscow is designed at finding a common avenue accommodating the economic interests of the two sides and overcoming the existing political differences.

Commentary Blames U.S. for Egypt-Sudan Tension

LD3006134095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eruption of several brief military clashes on the borders of Egypt and Sudan and continuation of verbal war in the past few days have soured the not-so-favorable relations between Cairo and Khartoum.

The new round of tension in relations between Sudan and Egypt, following an assassination attempt on the Egyptian president's life in Addis Ababa, and Mubarak's claim that Khartoum had had a hand in the assassination attempt has been flared up.

On June 29th, Egyptian Government dismissed 70 Sudanese nationals from Egypt on the orders of Husni Mubarak. At the same time, Egypt's state radio aired words against the Government of Sudan — this being regarded as intervention in the internal affairs of Sudan — continuing instigations against Khartoum.

The president of Egypt in a speech threatened the government of Khartoum, saying that he needed only 10 days to topple the government.

In reaction to these threats, Khartoum warned Egypt, stressing that a Sudanese Army is ready to defend the border region of Hala'ib, recommending Cairo to stop provocative measures. Sudanese officials also denied the charges brought by the Egyptian president, and noted that Egypt should search the root of violence inside his own country, not blame others.

Political analysts, referring to Sudan's recent movements of opposition groups and rebels and meeting of some opponents of the Government of Sudan with the Egyptian president, believe that Cairo's threats against Khartoum has dimensions wider than their mutual relations.

Since coming to power of the present Government of Sudan in 1989, the relations of regional countries with Khartoum have come under the influence of Washington's regional policies and those of some of its allies.

Khartoum's government officials, who from the outset followed an independent foreign policy, have been pressed by the U.S., the West, and regional governments and have not been able to establish balanced relations with its neighbors. As such, during the past six years Khartoum has been under strict political, economic, and propaganda pressures of the West, especially the U.S.

The present propaganda war of Cairo against Khartoum is nothing but efforts to evermore tighten the noose of political and economic siege, so that Khartoum would stop its independent and Islamic policies.

Sudanese-Egyptian Relations Viewed After Attack

NC0107075795 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0345 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As Egyptian-Sudanese relations were showing signs of improvement, yet another incident pits the two neighboring countries against each other. The failed assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, which Egyptian leaders are attributing to the Sudanese, overshadowed their recent diplomatic efforts. It even led to a buildup of forces along their common border.

Upon returning to Egypt, Husni Mubarak—who had gone to Ethiopia to attend the OAU summit in Addis Ababa—adopted a strong position against Sudan and threatened to overthrow the Sudanese Government. Mubarak's remarks were the prelude to Egypt resuming a propaganda war against the Sudanese Government which, apart from the first six months of the current Sudanese Government's rule, has gone on continuously for the past five years.

Relations between the two big north African neighbors are deteriorating at a time when, for the first time in two years, their foreign ministers met on the sidelines of the OAU conference and voiced the need to solve bilateral problems through peaceful means. Meanwhile, the Egyptian Government prevented their [the Sudanese opposition] conference in Cairo; the session was held with Israel's influence in Eritrea.

Experts were surprised by and are following with concern the new friction in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. They believed that neither side was presently motivated to encourage such an act. Some analysts blame domestic problems in Egypt for it starting a fresh anti-Sudan propaganda campaign. Other analysts, however, see the Zionist regime's hand in the incident because of recent developments leading to improvement in the relations between the two powerful, Muslim neighbors in northern Africa, especially since the Sudanese opposition conference in Eritrea was held with multifaceted Zionist support. These experts believe that the failed assassination attempt against Mubarak may also have been an effort by the Zionists to exploit propaganda in the same direction.

Confirmation on Mahdavi-Khani's Resignation

LD0207145395 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1446 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — An informed source on Sunday confirmed rumors that Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Khani has resigned as the Secretary General of the Association of Combatant Ulama.

The source, speaking to IRNA on condition of anonymity, predicted that Ayatollah Mahdavi-Khani would most probably withdraw his resignation. He said that it was not the first time for the ayatollah to submit his resignation, adding that he had already resigned three or four times before.

On reasons for the ayatollah's resignation, the source told IRNA that ill health and the ayatollah's desire to give younger clerics a free hand to assume such posts were the reasons for his resignation. The source said Ayatollah Mahdavi-Khani was now in London for medical treatment, adding that the ayatollah has thus far undergone several heart surgeries.

The source also refuted rumors that Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi has been nominated to replace Ayatollah Mahdavi-Khani. He said Ayatollah Azari Qomi was among the instructors of Qom theological center and thus he cannot assume the post of secretary general of the Association of Combatant Ulama.

Meanwhile, rumors have gained ground in various circles that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri have been nominated to assume the post.

Israeli Motives Behind Compromise Process Viewed

NC0107140595 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0345 GMT 1 Jul 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the deadline set by the PLO and the Zionist regime for an agreement on the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip due to expire, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres plan to meet in the Gaza Strip today in a new effort to emerge from this crisis.

For a month now, PLO and Zionist regime representatives have been holding talks in Cairo to reach an understanding on the withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Forces from Palestinian cities and the holding of elections there. However, the Zionist regime's insistence on

repeatedly violating the Oslo compromise has prevented any agreement on this.

Political analysts believe that one of the major reasons that the political efforts have failed is the Zionist regime's unprincipled approach to the compromise process. By pursuing a policy of procrastination in the compromise talks, the Zionist regime has constantly tried to exploit Washington's support and the separation of the Arab governments. Further, it has tried to work the compromise so that the roots of the Middle East crisis will be ignored and current de facto situations will be recognized by the Arab governments.

For the same reason, and contrary to its peace-seeking policies, the Zionist regime continues its military aggression in southern Lebanon and refuses to say when it will be ready for the unconditional withdrawal of southern Lebanon and the Syrian Golan Heights. Also, by continuing the imprisonment of thousands of Palestinian political prisoners and by intensifying Muslim repression in the occupied territories, the regime occupying Jerusalem is continuing its past aggressive behavior.

This aggressive attitude shows that the Zionist regime does not see compromise as a way to solve the Middle East crisis but as a way to achieve new political ends. The Zionist regime is constantly stating that in exchange for compromise with the Arab governments, it should be granted the opportunity to have a presence in their markets. This shows that the Zionist regime's current priority is more economic; and this regime's behavior in the compromise process should be considered based on this.

'Constructive' Caspian Sea Meeting Ends

LD2906204995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first meeting of the directors general of legal departments of Caspian Sea littoral states concluded in Tehran on 29 June in a friendly and well-intentioned atmosphere. The participating sides showed much flexibility during the meeting. A statement read out by the Iranian chairman at the end of session said that agreement has been reached on the work to be continued.

Acknowledging the significance and sensitivity of the topics discussed at the meeting — which included differences of opinion among the governments of the Caspian Sea littoral states on political, economic, and environmental issues related to the legal status of the Caspian Sea since the collapse of the Soviet Union — the participating states agreed that the legal status of the Caspian Sea should be determined by the unanimous

vote of all those states. The issues include the use of natural resources and the extent and nature of each state's rights in the Caspian Sea.

The statement mentions that all the participating states described the meeting as positive and constructive, and it was decided that negotiations will continue in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, in the month of Shahrivar [beginning 23 August].

Emami-Kashani Gives Both Friday Prayers Sermons

LD3006132095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1030 GMT on 30 June carries recordings of first and second Tehran Friday prayers sermons by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council. The program lasts 57 minutes.

Emami-Kashani says he will devote his first sermon to the continuation of a discussion on the harmful effects of telling lies and spreading rumors which he began discussing a few weeks ago. He begins by referring to Koranic verses, Islamic traditions, and reports by various Muslim scholars on the topic. He says Iranian people are vigilant and will pay no attention to rumors. The first sermon ends at 1105.

The second sermon begins immediately after the conclusion of the first sermon. Ayatollah Emami-Kashani begins by praising the people of Azarbaijan Province for the warm welcome they extended to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during a recent visit to the province. He explains development projects carried out by the government in that province and says: "Our people realize that the government is working for them and they also show their appreciation by supporting the country's officials."

He then refers to the Ashura exercise conducted near Tehran a few weeks ago and praises those who participated in the exercise.

He also refers to the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 officials who were killed in a bomb explosion in 1981 and says that the incident did not shake the strong foundations of the Islamic Republic. He continues by praising the efforts of martyr Beheshti towards preparing the Iranian Constitution before his death.

Emami-Kashani refers to the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the USS Vincennes in 1988 and says: "The enemy did not gain anything from the martyrs of the Airbus shot down on 12th Tir [3 July, 1988]. The White House gained nothing but disgrace.

Two hundred and ninety people — passengers, the pilot and crew — as the honorable transport minister explained [see second ref], those dear ones were taken away from us in that way. The disgraced ones will remain disgraced for ever. The White House was the one that was disgraced. They could not do anything to the Islamic Republic or the Islamic revolution. And this is because our society is aware, based on Islam and Islamic thought."

Nepal

RRP Protests Against Dissolution of Parliament

BK3006161395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1400 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, June 30 (AFP) — Some 8,000 members of the rightwing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) demonstrated in the streets here Friday attacking the Nepalese government and demanding that parliament be reinstated, witnesses said.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government before holding a mass meeting where RPP leaders bitterly criticized the government for advising King Birendra to dissolve the 205-member house of representatives and announce mid-term polls.

RPP president and former prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, said "the NCP-UML government in its eight-month rule has destroyed the nation's basic social and economic structures and beliefs."

"The NCP-UML has also undermined the basic foundation of the constitution," Thapa alleged. "Now the country is run by the communist organization in the name of so-called state affairs department," he said, adding, "Parliament and cabinet have now been made obsolete and useless."

King Birendra dissolved parliament on June 13 and called for mid-term polls on November 23 at the request of Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, who had said the opposition were making it impossible for his government to function normally.

The king also asked Adhikari to head a caretaker government and conduct the elections fairly, freely and peacefully. Some 20,000 pro-RPP supporters and activists held a mass flaming torch demonstration in the Nepalese capital Wednesday, a traditional form of protest in Nepal.

Political observers here said the RPP's demonstration Friday was a show of strength. The party held 20 seats in the disbanded house, where the NCP-UML had 88 seats while the major opposition Nepali Congress (NC)

had 83. The opposition parties, the NC, the RPP and the pro-Indian Nepal Sadbhavana Party (NSP), have all filed a writ petition calling on the Supreme Court to declare the dissolution of parliament illegal and to reinstate it.

Earlier Friday all the main parties, including the NCP-UML, registered with the Election Commission (EC) so as to be officially eligible to contest the forthcoming elections.

Sri Lanka

Army Suffers Major Casualties in Battle With LTTE

BK2906083095 Hong Kong AFP in English
0753 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 29 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Army lost at least 116 troops dead or missing in their biggest defeat to Tamil Tiger guerrillas since the rebels pulled out of peace talks two months ago, officials said Thursday [29 June].

Defence analysts said Wednesday's ferocious attack on the Mandativu island base was an attempt to stall a planned military offensive against their defacto state in the nearby Jaffna peninsula of northern Sri Lanka. But the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) assault dealt a new (?blow) to military morale, experts said, as well as the image of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The military said the 1,000 LTTE fighters who took part in the seaborne pre-dawn raid killed at least 90 soldiers, wounded 41 and left 26 missing, the military said.

Another six soldiers were killed Thursday in a mine blast in the east of the island, raising to 462 the number of troopers killed since hostilities resumed. The military claims killing 453 rebels during the same period.

LTTE radio claimed claimed Thursday the military killed three civilians when they shelled Jaffna for the assault. But a military spokesman denied artillery guns were used after the attack. "What is difficult to understand is why the army took such large casualties. They had very good intelligence 24 hours in advance pin-pointing that base was going to be attacked on Wednesday morning," a senior defence official said.

Mandativu was the bloodiest battle since the LTTE pulled out of a truce on April 19 and called off six months of talks, to resume its campaign for an independent homeland.

Officials say the Tigers used a three-month ceasefire period to rebuild their forces and re-establish bases in eastern Sri Lanka from where they had been driven out two years ago.

The military debacles could not have come at a worst time for President Chandrika Kumaratunga who celebrates her 50th birthday Thursday. The government had just raised taxes to finance the war against the Tigers. A senior defence officer said the Mandaitivu losses were a blow to troop morale which had already hit rock bottom after the LTTE shot down two transport planes in April crippling the military's airbridge to besieged army camps.

"The only way to salvage morale is to put into action the plans already made to go to (LTTE-held) Jaffna as quickly as possible. But whether the military can deliver is to be seen," the officer said. There had been reports the military was planning a showdown with the LTTE in the Jaffna peninsula.

Last week, Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said the government military focus was on the north because they felt that the "head of the crisis" was in the north where Colombo has little influence. Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe played down the Mandaitivu losses and said troops had put up a good fight but they were outnumbered. He claimed at least 50 LTTE men were killed but the rebels said they lost only eight. "We still don't know the exact losses on the other side. We know what happened in Pooneryn. So the truth will be out sooner or later," Munasinghe said referring to a similar assault against a nearby army camp in November 1993.

In that attack, the worst ever against the army, the LTTE killed some 650 soldiers. Several months later the Tigers admitted losing 594 men and having 1,000 rebels hospitalised. Analysts pointed out the military suffered heavy losses when ever they remained on the defensive. The army had not carried out spectacular attacks unlike the LTTE which thrives on massive hit-and-run attacks. With the lack of close helicopter support and well trained infantrymen, the 100,000-strong military has been unable to carryout large scale operations against the LTTE.

Spokesman Reports on Attack

BK2906115895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lankan troops repulsed a major seaborne attack by the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) on Mandaitivu Island early last morning killing at least 50 terrorists but losing

84 soldiers and two officers. Thirty-six soldiers were injured.

Nearly 1000 Tigers led by Tiger commander (Susai) and Jaffna area leader (Varun) attacked the island from two directions, Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said yesterday. He said troops are very much in control of the island located west of Jaffna and east of Kayts. The island manned by Crack Gamunu Watch troops is connected with Jaffna by the Pannai crossway where the fighting broke out at 0245 AM. It was a close quarter combat which lasted for several hours. Clearing is now going on, he told reporters in the weekly cabinet press briefing. He said all injured soldiers were evacuated by helicopter to the Palaly base hospital. No Navy and civilian casualties have been reported. The captain killed in action was the second-in-command of the 10th Gamunu Watch infantry battalion. A later date lined REUTER report puts the death toll among soldiers at 75, but an official spokesman said no definite count has been taken but the death toll on both sides may be higher.

Army Consolidates Control

BK3006134195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops at the Mandaitivu Army base in Jaffna who repulsed the massive predawn LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) attack on Wednesday [28 June] have now consolidated control of the island, defense authorities said yesterday.

Over 1,000 terrorists led by Sea Tiger commander (Susai) and LTTE Jaffna area leader (Varun) stormed the Army-held island located west of Jaffna from two directions, and at least 50 Tigers were killed in the fierce fighting that lasted for four hours. The Army lost about 100 men, including two officers. Our troops were badly outnumbered but valiantly held ground, aborting the enemy bid to overrun the camp, a military spokesman explained.

The LTTE announced over their clandestine radio that their dead in the battle on the Mandaitivu island included Lieutenant Colonel (Suvti), Major (Thamil Maran), Captain (H. Chelvam), Lieutenant (Akila), Lieutenant (Dudeya), Second Lieutenant (Issailakan), and female cadre (Veeravangai Padini).

The LTTE, however, had admitted the death of only eight cadres in the battle. Security sources in Colombo maintain that a minimum of 50 terrorists were killed, but their death toll could be higher. The same sources said that the Army's dead and injured were airlifted to Colombo the same day. The injured were hospitalized and the bodies were handed over to their next of kin.

A Colombo datelined AFP agency report, quoting Tamil sources in the north, said yesterday that the LTTE

had claimed over their radio that they captured a large haul of arms and ammunition during their battle at the Mandaitivu island. A military spokesman denied this, adding that the LTTE's assault was confined to the bunker lines.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

